

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 FEBRUARY 1981

Reaction to Brezhnev Speech

Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim welcomed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's call, in his speech to the 26th CPSU Congress opening session, for a specially convened international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO. In his remarks, reported by PETRA-JNA, Al-Qasim also described Brezhnev's stated readiness to cooperate with the European states as a "positive and constructive stand" that constitutes an encouragement of the European initiative. Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran received the Soviet ambassador in Amman, PETRA-JNA reported, and asked him to convey Jordan's thanks to the Soviet Government for its stand on the Middle East issue. According to Amman radio, the newspapers AD-DUSTUR and AR-RA'Y also welcomed Brezhnev's remarks on the Middle East. AD-DUSTUR said the Soviet initiative, which came at the "right time and in the right form," is worthy of "serious consideration" and a "positive response." AR-RA'Y said any Soviet move should neither preclude nor be precluded by a joint European initiative on the Middle East. It is essential, the newspaper added, that a "common ground" be found so that the Arabs can benefit from both Soviet and European moves.

Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with the Soviet Ambassador in Beirut and conveyed his "profound appreciation" for Brezhnev's speech to the CPSU Congress, particularly for what the Soviet leader said about the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. 'Arafat described Brezhnev's "constructive" stand as a "suitable and acceptable basis" for a "just and firm" Middle East peace settlement that would eliminate Israel's "aggression" against the Palestinians and the Arab nation.

On the other hand, an editorial in the Egyptian newspaper AL-AKBAR, reviewed by Cairo radio, described Brezhnev's proposals as "irrelevant and unimportant" and said they should not be taken seriously. Brezhnev's aim is to impose Soviet tutelage on the Palestinians, AL-AKBAR asserted, and, noting his refusal to withdraw Soviet forces from Afghanistan, described the Soviet presence there as the source of "all tension and agitation" in the Middle East.

Iran

Nobari on Assets--Citing a press statement issued in Tehran, AFP reported that Central Bank Governor 'Ali Reza Nobari said not one "penny" of Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks has yet been returned. Asserting that the Reagan administration has not fully respected "some aspects" of the Algiers agreement, Nobari claimed that the United States has not "made a single step" toward unfreezing and returning Iranian assets.

British Missionaries--AFP reported that the three British missionaries held in Iran for more than 6 months on spying charges were taken to Tehran airport and were expected to leave for Paris. Earlier, Prosecutor General 'Ali Qoddusi said in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio that although the missionaries have been cleared of the charges against them, "we do not intend to exonerate the church and the bishopric," which have opposed Iran's Islamic revolution. Qoddusi also pointed out that two Iranian students are being held in Great Britain and claimed that they have been "ill-treated."

Rafsanjani Interview--Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Central News Bureau correspondent that UN special envoy Olof Palme wanted Iran to take a position toward Iraq that would allow Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn to claim that he had at least brought Iran to the negotiating table. In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Rafsanjani said Iranian officials told Palme that Husayn should be punished rather than be allowed to "justify his aggression."

Referring to recent domestic developments, Rafsanjani expressed the hope that President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr will condemn those who disrupt meetings in his name and "on his behalf" and that he will ask the authorities to put an end to such acts. Rafsanjani also criticized those who go on strike in support of "unreasonable" demands during wartime.

Strike Ends--Tehran radio reported that the drivers of Tehran and Suburbs United Bus Company announced they are to resume work, having discovered and denounced the "conspiracies of the counterrevolutionaries." The decision follows a strong appeal for an end to their strike by Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that Islamic revolution guards in Dezful claimed they shot down an Iraqi MiG west of the Karkheh Kur River, while Baghdad radio said an Iraqi airborne unit attacked Iranian forces in the Shush region, killing 21 and returning safely to base. Both radios also reported continued sporadic clashes and exchanges of fire along all western and southern fronts.

Iraq

According to Baghdad radio, Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi met with Christoph van der Klauw, president of the EC Council of Ministers, to discuss the European initiative on the Middle East. Ibrahim stressed Iraq's willingness to cooperate with the EC states to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Israel

Shamir Interview--Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a Jerusalem radio interview, said that his "extremely friendly" talk with U.S. President Ronald Reagan lived up to expectations and that the President confirmed all the conclusions reached in Shamir's previous talks with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Shamir said there is no disagreement between Israel and the United States over the priority to be given to the Middle East problem and noted that Secretary Haig will visit the Middle East in the "very near future." He said that no decision has yet been made about visits to Washington by Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. Shamir also told the radio that in his talks with U.S. leaders, he expressed Israel's "total opposition" to the further supply of aircraft equipment to Saudi Arabia and pointed out the need for U.S. assistance to maintain Israel's "qualitative superiority" in the Middle East balance of forces.

Begin Remarks--Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Begin, reacting to recent U.S. Government statements that the Middle East should not be given top priority, stressed that the constant turmoil in the Middle East requires the world to treat the region as a central issue. Begin also said that while he is opposed to the postponement of the tripartite autonomy talks, he does not know whether the U.S. administration favors postponement.

Egypt

President Anwar as-Sadat received Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi, MENA reported, who delivered a message from Oman's Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id Al Bu Sa'id on bilateral and regional issues.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETS 24 FEB

GF241927 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The special committee in charge of formulating the fundamental system for the Gulf States Cooperation Council began its meetings today in King Faysal's conference hall in Riyadh. During the 2-day meetings the committee will formulate the council's system prior to submitting it to the Arabian Gulf foreign ministers council at its meeting to be held in Muscat on 8 March. The kingdom's delegation to the committee, which is headed by the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Shaykh Isma'il ash-Shura, includes a number of the Foreign Ministry advisers. Experts from Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and Oman are participating in the committee.

GULF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING ENDS 22 FEB

GF231435 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Excerpt] The delegations participating in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula agriculture ministers conference continue leaving the country following the conclusion of the conference yesterday.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

JN241647 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The Zionist military concentrations have noticeably escalated in the area facing southern Lebanon, suggesting the possibility of a new Zionist aggression. Military observers believe that such new aggression would definitely be much wider than previous acts of aggression.

Our correspondent has learned that the Palestinian revolution's Supreme Military Council met under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today for 5 hours. The meeting was devoted completely to studying the situation in the south and adopting the necessary measures to cope with various military and political developments. After thoroughly discussing the evidence of the recent Zionist aggression on the village of Al-Kufur and acknowledging the boldness of the joint forces' fighters in repulsing this aggressive Zionist operation with extraordinary courage, the council called on all the military sectors of the joint forces to be on the alert as was ordered by the brother commander in chief last night.

The council also discussed the Zionist army's call up of its reserves on the pretext of taking part in mobilization maneuvers.

'ARAFAT SENDS CABLE TO DPFLP ON 12TH ANNIVERSARY

JN210824 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] In a cable to the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP] on its 12th anniversary, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: We shall continue to struggle together against all forms of imperialist-Zionist conspiracies to abort our revolution and militant march, including the treasonous Camp David conspiracy and the autonomy conspiracy which threatens our people, their aspirations and their future.

Brother Abu 'Ammar described the celebration of such an anniversary as part of our militant course and support for the struggler sons of our people to renew their pledge to continue the struggle until the liberation of Palestine. This occasion also provides us with the opportunity to show the world one of the forms of our entrenched national unity and solid democratic experiment for the sake of Palestine.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: The spirit of our national unity, understanding and interaction raises high the banner of our revolution, reiterates the independence of our will and expresses our deep-rooted civilization and commitment to our struggle for liberation. It is also an important occasion to affirm the unity of our people inside and outside the occupied homeland under the PLO.

In his cable Abu 'Ammar said: The celebration of the anniversary of the DPFLP, which is one of the factions of the Palestinian revolution, confirms to the entire world that our people inside and outside occupied Palestine will remain committed to the PLO and rally round it as their sole legitimate representative and as the leader which organizes the their struggle. Abu 'Ammar added: This anniversary undoubtedly will constitute a strong response for confronting all attempts by imperialist-Zionist forces and their agents to bypass the Palestinian will, ignore it and reject the fact of its existence or to tame the Palestinian will and subgate it to tutelage and subservience.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: On this anniversary we bow our heads to these martyrs alone and raise them high and proud in honor of their sacrifices while continuing to remain faithful to our pledge to them to struggle until achievement of the inalienable and unnegotiable rights of our people to return, to determine their fate in freedom and to exercise their independent national sovereignty on the national Palestinian soil.

KHALAF URGES IRAN NOT TO TREAT U.S., USSR EQUALLY

JN210812 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has called on our brothers in the Islamic revolution in Iran to devote their struggle to combating U.S. hegemony, which is trying to wreck our souls, Islam and our faith in God. He said: Proceeding from our faith in God and the homeland, we absolutely cannot treat the United States and the Soviet Union equally. This came in Brother Abu Iyad's speech at the ceremony held by the Arab organization in support of the Islamic revolution in Iran following the Friday sermon in the grand Al-'Umari mosque in Sidon. The ceremony was attended by the Iranian delegation led by Dr Jalaleddin Farsi, [former Lebanese] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Lebanese Health Minister Dr Nazih al-Bizri, Brother Mustafa Sa'd, a number of personalities representing the political and party organizations in the town and throngs of Lebanese and Palestinian sons.

At the outset of his speech, Brother Abu Iyad saluted our great Imam Khomeyni and the Iranian people on behalf of the joint forces, whose fighters are confronting the imperialist and Zionist aggression in defense of the Islamic nation's honor. Addressing the Iranian delegation, Brother Abu Iyad said: We are also facing U.S. planes with Zionist insignia in southern Lebanon. Therefore and proceeding from our faith in God and the homeland, we absolutely cannot treat the United States and Soviet Union equally, because the United States has and still is trying to humiliate our Arab and Islamic nation. He asked: Who supported the shah? Who supplied the shah with all the destructive arms against the Iranian people? It was the United States alone.

He added: As a Lebanese and Palestinian people, we are daily exposed to shelling and we urge our brothers in the Iranian revolution to devote their struggle to combating U.S. hegemony, which is trying to wreck our Islam and faith in God. But the United States will be driven away because as long as our faith in God remains strong in our hearts, we will continue to uphold our banner so that we can reach Jerusalem.

Brother Abu Iyad recalled that long ago groups of Iranian people came from Khuzestan to liberate Jerusalem from the Europeans. We are confident that groups of Iranian people will come under this great imam to liberate Jerusalem.

Dr Jalaladdin Farsi said: We are loyal to the Palestinian and Lebanese people as well as to the sons of southern Lebanon who are shouldering the responsibility of the Islamic nation and are defending the Islamic and Arab homeland. He added: O sons of 'Abd an-Nasir and Ma'ruf Sa'd: We are against racism and sectarianism because we are Muslims. Our revolution is one of monotheists against atheists.

Addressing the Iranian delegation on behalf of the nationalist movement, Brother Mustafa Sa'd said: We supported you before your victory and we support you because our fate is one.

Other speeches were made by Shaykh Ahmad Zunayn, the Sidon chief qadi; Muhsin Sabra, representative of the Arab Socialist Union; and Ma'mun 'Abdallah, representative of the Arab Nasirite Unionists.

VOP REPORTS 23 FEB FEDAYEEN OPERATION IN JAFFA

JN231743 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] A times explosive charge which was planted by our revolutionaries from the special group inside a cooperative complex for the Zionist security forces personnel in the city of Jaffa, was set off this morning.

The explosion led to the killing or wounding of an unspecified number of enemy personnel who were inside the complex. The contents of the complex also suffered heavy damage as a result of the fire which broke out following the explosion of the charge.

The enemy police evacuated the wounded after having cordoned off the area and set up roadblocks on the main streets.

The police also carried out an arrest campaign. A number of Palestinian citizens were arrested under the justification that they were under suspicion. Our revolutionaries returned safely to base.

QATARFRENCH INDUSTRY MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

JN241713 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Doha, 24 Feb (GNA)--French Industry Minister Andre Giraud has described his talks with Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and Qatari officials as constructive.

At a press conference here today prior to his departure from Doha, the French minister said that his talks with Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari finance and oil minister, dealt with issues pertaining to oil.

He praised French-Qatari cooperation in the fields of oil and technology, pointing out that France is contributing by developing and promoting energy and water desalination in Qatar while Qatar is supplying France with oil.

The French minister expressed hope that Qatari-French relations will witness further development in the interests of the two countries.

On the transfer of technology to developing states he expressed the belief that with its material and technological potentials, his country is capable of contributing to world development. He added that it is the concern of the oil-producing and industrial states to spare the world economy from undergoing severe shakes.

24 Feb Departure

JN241440 Doha QNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Doha, 24 Feb (QNA)--French Industry Minister Andre Giraud and his delegation left Doha for home this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Qatar at the invitation of Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance and oil, who saw off the French minister at the airport.

During the visit the French minister held talks with the Qatari finance and oil minister to discuss bolstering bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, industry and petrochemicals.

Giraud also attended the opening ceremony of the petrochemicals complex and natural gas plant yesterday in the city of Umm Sa'id, west of Doha.

SAUDI ARABIASAUDI-KOREAN JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS OPEN 22 FEB

GF221858 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpt] The Saudi-Korean joint committee began meeting in Jidda today to discuss the joint cooperation agreement between the two countries. The Saudi side is headed by Shaykh 'Abdallah Rida, foreign under secretary for economic and cultural affairs, while the Korean side is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Chae-pong.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Rida said the committee discussed bilateral economic and technological cooperation in various fields as well as the kingdom's relations with developing countries.

PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 25 FEB

LD251110 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Jidda, 25 Feb (SPA)--Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi arrived at noon today to attend the meetings of the good offices committee to resolve the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

SAUDI ARABIA 'DISPLEASED' WITH NETHERLANDS

LD230813 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21 Feb 81 p 10

[Text] Well-informed Arab sources have told AL-MAJALLAH that Saudi Arabia was displeased with the attitude adopted by Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and chairman of the European Council, during his visit to Riyadh early this month.

The sources said that the Netherlands minister this month is making a tour of the Middle East as the EC special envoy to discuss with the parties concerned in the conflict the role that Europe can play in solving the crisis in the area, visited Saudi Arabia in order to discuss with officials the European role on one hand and the strengthening of ties between the two countries on the other. Among the ideas which the Netherlands foreign minister carried with him was the establishment of a joint Saudi-Dutch committee and the signing of several agreements between the two countries. But the visit ended with no announcement about the proposed committee or agreements. King Khalid received the Netherlands minister, and Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal had talks with him.

The sources said that while Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal asserted that no settlement of the Middle East problem can be achieved unless the Palestine problem is dealt with from all its aspects, foremost of which if the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to establish an independent state of their own under PLO leadership, the Netherlands foreign minister avoided asserting the stand adopted at the European summit in Venice which underlines the Palestinian people's right and the PLO's role in the negotiations. This caused Saudi displeasure and led to the postponment of discussion on strengthening economic cooperation.

Last week the Netherlands tried to make up for this by announcing the transfer of its consulate in Jerusalem. It also sent its agriculture minister to Riyadh. But the view of the well-informed sources is that what matters is that the Netherlands show practical and actual support for Arab and Palestinian rights.

U.S. AMBASSADOR ASKED TO STAY UNTIL MID-MARCH

LD241651 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Feb 81 p 1

['UKAZ "special" dispatch: "Special U.S. Sources Tell 'UKAZ: Haig Asks West To Continue in His Post as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has asked U.S. ambassador to the kingdom Mr John West to remain in his post for a few more weeks, until mid-March.

This is because of the importance that Washington attaches to the relations between the kingdom and the United States as well as the desire not to leave this post vacant for a long time. Mr Haig has asked Mr West to explain this to the kingdom's government and to emphasize U.S. understanding of the extreme importance of issues of common interest to the two countries and the desire to move rapidly in the dialogue on these issues. Mr Haig expressed his appreciation of Mr West's willingness to do so. The State Department press spokesman will make a statement on the subject.

PDRYMINISTER SAYS PDRY NOT SOVIET-CUBAN BASE

GF241323 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 3

[Text] South Yemeni Minister of agriculture and Agrarian Reform Mr Muhammad Sulayman an-Nasir denied Western allegations that his country was a Russo-Cuban military base designed to enable the Warsaw allies to spread their influence in the Arabian Gulf.

Speaking to KHALEEJ TIMES in Abu Dhabi yesterday, the South Yemeni minister retorted: "There is nothing new about American and West European allegations that we hosted Soviet and Cuban military bases and that we were being used as a springboard to the neighboring states. This propaganda was being hammered home since our birth as an independent nation.

"It is clear that there are Arab and non-Arab states which accomodated and even welcomed foreign military bases in their territories. We are opposed to American intervention in the Arab world. That is why we have strongly denounced the American-Egyptian joint military exercises, and the reported American facilities in Oman, Somalia and Kenya," the minister added.

He said that the objectives of the American military presence in those countries were obvious and inimical to the interest of Arab nations.

In answer to a question whether it was not in the best interest of the Arab world to ask both the U.S. and the USSR to vacate their positions in the Red Sea and in the Indian Ocean, the minister replied: "We don't see the Soviet Union and the U.S. in the same light. The former always helps liberation struggles in the world and the latter always suppresses such activities. The former supports Arab causes and specifically the Palestinian struggle, and the latter helps Israel encroach and usurp the rights of the Arab nations. The former seeks no military bases in our part of the world and the latter has such facilities."

He called upon the Arab world to launch a unified strategy to check the American assault which, he said, endangered peace and security in the region.

Commenting on his country's relations with neighboring Somalia, the minister denied a Somali Government accusation that South Yemen harbored communist-oriented dissidents who wanted to topple Somali President Siad Barre.

He said: "We have never taken a position against Somalia at any time. You know that we enjoyed far better relations with Somalia long before we became friendly to Ethiopia.

"But with the advent of the socialist regime in Addis Ababa, we found that our objectives and those of the new government coincided with those of Somalia, which also was a socialist country. Moreover, all three of us enjoy close relations with Russia. One can even say that Somalia's relations with Russia were closer than ours with Russia.

"Against this background we believed that differences between Somalia and Ethiopia could be amicably resolved within the socialist framework when relations between the two countries started deteriorating. On the basis of this assumption, we called for a secret meeting in Aden which was attended by Siad Barre, Mengistu Haile Miriam and Fidel Castro. However, nothing came out of the efforts."

The minister hoped that the relations between his country and Somalia would improve. He said their ties with Somalia went back many centuries and were multifaceted. The minister stressed that there were hopeful signs that his wish would come true.

AL-AKHBAR CITED ON COMING AS-SADAT, HAIG VISITS

NC231334 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2138 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)--Vice President Husni Mubarak has said that he expects President Anwar as-Sadat to visit the United States in July or August. He said that we are not in a hurry for an early visit because the U.S. administration is currently busy studying its strategy.

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR to be published tomorrow, Tuesday, Mubarak said that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is likely to visit the area in April. AL-AKHBAR reports that it has learned that the date of As-Sadat's visit to the United States in July or August may be set as a result of continued contacts between Washington and Cairo in the past 2 days. AL-AKHBAR says that there had been previous consultations regarding a visit to the United States by As-Sadat to take place during the last week of March or the first week of April. It says U.S. Secretary of State Haig proposed inviting President Anwar as-Sadat to meet with U.S. President Reagan at that time. Cairo's answer was that the date of the invitation would depend on the circumstances of the new U.S. administration, since it is still in the early weeks of its term.

AL-AKHBAR continues by saying: Egypt believes that there is no need to hurry regarding the issue of the autonomy talks, now that they have become stalemated because of the Begin government. Also, Israel is approaching new elections in June, after which time a new government will be headed by Begin or Peres, leader of the opposition party.

AL-AKHBAR says that from Haig's statement following his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir, it has become clear that there is a big difference regarding the views of both countries. At a time when Shamir was exerting pressure for the resumption of the autonomy talks, on the understanding that the United States was a partner in the talks, and demanding that a tripartite summit be concluded among As-Sadat, Reagan and Begin, Haig's statement at the press conference made it clear that the new administration sees no need to hurry in resuming the talks, particularly due to the upcoming elections in Israel.

Regarding a definition of the new U.S. administration's stand on the Middle East crisis, it has become appropriate for Secretary of State Alexander Haig to visit the area in April so that he can learn the various views of the different countries. The visit will be a preliminary one for the purpose of forming the final guidelines of the U.S. stand. The AL-AKHBAR political editor has learned that Cairo welcomes this approach, in the hope that future steps will be based on a clear picture because, from the beginning, we are not in a hurry for the date of the visit to be set.

AL-AKHBAR says that when consultations were conducted between Cairo and Washington there was agreement by both capitals that U.S. Secretary Haig would begin by visiting the area and then As-Sadat would make his visit to the United States in the summer.

PAPER SAYS U.S., EGYPTIAN SOVIET POLICIES AGREE

NC242250 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2218 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)--In tomorrow's commentary, AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that the statements made by U.S. officials regarding the Reagan government's confrontation with the Soviet threat to the Middle East means that the new U.S. administration agrees with Egypt's strategic outlook in this region. The paper stresses the need to give top priority to this agreement with U.S. policy so the U.S. can support its friends and establish peace and security.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that President Anwar as-Sadat has repeatedly drawn the attention of U.S. officials to this point. It says: Egypt has exerted constant efforts to draw the Americans' attention to the possible results of the failure or hesitation of the West to confront a Soviet move against the Middle East.

AL-AKHBAR CRITICIZES BREZHNEV'S MIDEAST PROPOSALS

NC241210 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 24 Feb 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial AL-AKHBAR comments on Soviet leader Brezhnev's proposals for solving the Middle East problem. Brezhnev has called for convening an international conference for this purpose that would include all concerned parties, the USSR, the United States, the PLO and Israel. At the inauguration of the CPSU congress, Brezhnev said the time has come to return to collective and honest discussions concerning an overall, practical solution to the Middle East problem and that the USSR is willing to cooperate with the European countries and with those striving to ensure a durable and just peace in the Middle East. Pointing to what he termed the "Gulf war," Brezhnev said that the Iraq-Iran conflict is the result of a ruse by Western imperialism to create divisions in the region.

The paper says the first thing an observer notices in Brezhnev's proposals is that he has refused to withdraw his forces from Afghanistan, despite the fact that the Soviet presence there is the source of all tension and agitation in the Middle East. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was aimed at making Afghanistan a launching pad for Soviet designs in the Middle East. This renders Brezhnev's proposals irrelevant and unimportant, and they should not be taken seriously with regard to achieving peace in the Middle East.

The paper adds: The picture Brezhnev sketched with regard to the international conference he is advocating is a very bizarre one indeed, because it is tainted by dubious Soviet aims and ambitions. Brezhnev wants the conference to include the USSR, the United States, the PLO and Israel, which he calls the "parties concerned." It is as if Brezhnev wants to place the USSR and the PLO on one side and the United States and Israel on the other. This is what Brezhnev refers to as the international conference that should delve into an honest discussion on practical, overall solution to the Middle East problem.

AL-AKHBAR affirms that Brezhnev does not, in the true sense of the word, want an international conference; nor does he want an overall settlement in the Middle East. When he says "the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians who are represented by the PLO," he means that he wants to place this conflict under the control of the Soviet Union and the United States--a situation that has hitherto prevailed. The Soviets are talking on behalf of the PLO, while the Americans are talking on behalf of Israel. These discussions invariably are between the U.S. and the USSR foreign ministers and between their ambassadors in Moscow or Washington. These talks are also deferred time and time again and so on and so forth--a situation with which we are already familiar and with which we have become fed up.

Brezhnev's only aim is to impose Soviet tutelage on the Palestinians and to ensure Soviet participation in the conference thereby promoting Soviet interests at the expense of the Palestinians.

AS-SADAT GIVES SPEECH ON PHARMACISTS' DAY 24 FEB

NC241148 [Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1010 GMT on 24 February carries live a relay of President as-Sadat's speech at the Arab Socialist Union Central Committee Hall in Cairo on the occasion of pharmacists' day. During his 20-minute speech, As-Sadat applauds the work of Egyptian pharmacists and appeals to them to continue their hard work for the betterment of all Egyptians.

Addressing graduating pharmacists, As-Sadat appeals to them to contribute to the new pharmaceutical societies being set up throughout Egypt, keeping in mind the needs of the people to achieve a better standard of health.

Relating the pharmaceutical societies to the world situation, As-Sadat says: We do not belong to any sphere of influence. As you heard me say in Europe, I told them our relations must be the new societies, for they will help resolve the food and housing crises.

OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI VISITS CAIRO 24 FEB

NC241222 Cairo MENA in English 1020 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)--Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi arrived here this morning from Larnaca, Cyprus, on a one-day visit to Egypt. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali welcomed Zawawi at the airport.

Zawawi said in a statement on his arrival at the airport that he will inform President Anwar as-Sadat of a number of viewpoints which Sultan Qabus of Oman asked him to convey to President as-Sadat. Zawawi said that his visit to Cairo comes within a series of meetings between Oman Sultanate and Egypt to exchange viewpoints of joint interest on the various issues related to bilateral relations.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the Omani state minister carries a message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to President Anwar as-Sadat. 'Ali further said that Zawawi's visit comes within the context of exchange of viewpoints as regards the situation in the region and Arab relations.

Zawawi had left Muscat for Cairo yesterday but due to the bad weather conditions which led to the closing of the Cairo airport, the Omani official's plane altered its itinerary and landed at Larnaca airport in Cyprus.

As-Sadat Reception

NC241344 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)--At his office at the National Democratic Party headquarters in Corniche an-Nil, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Oman Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi this afternoon. Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Omani Ambassador in Cairo 'Abdallah al-Ghazali attended the meeting.

After his 75-minute meeting with President as-Sadat, Zawawi stated that he conveyed to President as-Sadat an oral message from his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, on topics and bilateral issues of interest to the two countries as well as on issues related to the Gulf and Middle East regions.

Asked if his visit is related to recent developments on the Yemeni-Saudi border, Zawawi said that there is no connection. This visit, he said, falls within the framework of efforts to further consolidate the strong relations between Egypt and Oman on the basis of trust, mutual respect and continuous cooperation between the two countries.

Asked to specify the points included in Sultan Qabus' message to President as-Sadat, Zawawi said the message is not confined to any particular subject but covers a number of issues related to mutual relations and affairs of the Gulf. He said he is carrying a reply from President as-Sadat and that he will deliver that reply to Sultan Qabus this evening, or tomorrow at the latest.

Asked if President as-Sadat's reply is in agreement with the views contained in Sultan Qabus' message, Zawawi said: We are very fortunate that there is always agreement between Sultan Qabus and the president.

On his views regarding what is happening in the region, Zawawi said: We are now living in a region of continuous war. I do not believe that this war is in anyone's interests.

Departure Report

NC241502 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1409 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)--Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi left Cairo today concluding a visit to Egypt lasting several hours during which he met with President Anwar as-Sadat. He was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the Omani ambassador in Cairo.

ARMY OFFICERS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED AS SUBVERSIVES

NC211847 Paris AFP in English 1836 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (AFP)--Seven Egyptian Army officers and sub-officers were arrested in December for allegedly forming a secret anti-government organization called the Free Officers, a left-wing publication today reported. Two civilians, a student and an hotel employee, were also arrested on charges of collaborating with the clandestine group, reported AT-TAQADDUM information bulletin for the Progressivist Unionist Assembly.

Egyptian officials flatly denied the reports, calling them "absurd".

The paper said that the seven were members of the artillery and a commando school, and the secret group was reportedly led by a shock troop colonel. The group was allegedly linked with General Sa'id ad-Din ash-Shadhili, former military chief of staff who has formed a movement outside of Egypt to oppose the regime of President Anwar as-Sadat, AT-TAQADDUM said.

Egyptian officials said that only two of the seven names published were real, and that the two officers were carrying out their normal duties.

BRIEFS

ENERGY ORGANIZATION--Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)--Egypt and the European Common Market signed here today a contract for setting up an Egyptian organization for the development of new energy. The EEC agreed to finance the establishment of this organization at the cost of \$11 million. An Italian consultant firm will undertake feasibility studies during the next four months in preparation for the new organization beginning its work next year. Egyptian Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah said the organization will deal with the prospects of producing energy from the sun, the wind, the sea and the depth of the earth.

[Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1950 GMT 24 Feb 81 NC]

ROMANIA'S BURTICA MAKES STATEMENT ON DEPARTURE

JN250844 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Corneliu Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and his delegation left Baghdad this morning following a 5-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA prior to his departure, Burtica said that he had conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The message expresses Romania's desire to develop the existing relations between the two countries. He added that he had talks with Iraqi officials aimed at creating new horizons for bilateral cooperation in various fields and at promoting friendship between the Iraqi and Romanian peoples.

Minister Burtica was seen off by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, as well as by a number of trade ministry officials and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad.

EC'S VAN DER KLAUW MEETS OFFICIALS, DEPARTS

Arrival Report

JN232136 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)--Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister, arrived here tonight. His visit is part of a tour of a number of Arab states. He was received by Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Hammadi Meeting

JN241722 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers, who arrived in Iraq yesterday.

The Iraqi minister stressed Iraq's firm and principled stand toward the Palestinian issue, which is the Arab nation's central issue. He pointed out that this stand is in full harmony with the Baghdad and Tunis summit conference resolutions. The Netherlands minister reviewed the European initiative on the Palestinian issue.

The meeting was attended by a number of Foreign Ministry officials and Iraq's ambassador to the Netherlands.

'Izzat Ibrahim Meeting

JN241946 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, received in his office this evening Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers.

'Izzat Ibrahim reviewed Iraq's principled stand on the Palestinian issue and its adherence to the Baghdad summit conference resolutions in this regard. He stressed Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the EC states' efforts along the path of finding a just solution for the Palestinian cause. He said that Iraq stresses the importance of fruitful and constructive bilateral and collective cooperation with the West European states in this respect. He added that Iraq appreciates the efforts by the EC states in the direction of supporting Arab rights as represented in the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's full rights to their homeland and self-determination as well as the Zionist forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The two sides also reviewed and discussed all issues related to the European initiative on the Palestinian cause and Iraq's principled and practical attitude toward it.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the Netherlands ambassador in Baghdad.

25 Feb Departure

JN250746 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)--Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers, left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq.

In a predeparture statement to INA, Dr van der Klaauw described his talks with Iraqi officials as useful and constructive. He added that he had sensed a response and sincere desire with regard to all the ideas discussed during the talks. He said that his talks also touched on possible cooperation between the European group and the Arab states on the Palestinian issue.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 257

JN241722 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Communique No 257 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 24 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With capability and valor, our armed forces continue their activities in the operation sectors. The following are the results of the activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. Seven were killed in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin.
- B. One of our advanced forces raided enemy positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and clashed with the enemy with all sorts of weapons, killing 18 and destroying 5 infantry positions.
- C. Seven were killed and one vehicle laden with ammunition was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
- D. One vehicle, one field gun and two observation posts were destroyed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
- E. Five were killed in the Mehran region.
- F. Four were killed and one armored vehicle was destroyed in the Dezful region.
- G. In a daring and brave operation, one of our airborne units raided an enemy force in the Shush region and clashed with it with various weapons, killing 21 and destroying 1 tank, 1 vehicle and 1 field gun. The force returned safely to base.
- H. An enemy troop force tried to approach our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. Our forces confronted it with various weapons and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 43 dead. Our forces also destroyed one armored personnel carrier and shot down an enemy helicopter in the same region.
- I. Seven were killed and two tanks, one vehicle and one excavator were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
- J. Five were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 117 dead, 5 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 5 vehicles, 2 field guns, 1 excavator, 3 observation posts, 1 armored vehicle and 1 helicopter.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: 12 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: Two vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 February 1981

CLANDESTINE KURDISH RADIO ASKS PARTIES TO UNITE

JN231540 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Revolution in Surani Kurdish 1500 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Statement by Command Committee of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan issued on 16 February 1981]

[Excerpts] Oh masses of Kurdistan: Since its establishment, our union has been trying to safeguard the banners of the people's unity in all circumstances. Our union has also been struggling for the formation of a wide unified front comprising the various progressive and patriotic powers which are hostile to imperialism and reaction and which try to attain the revolution's success and bring about the people's objectives.

Stemming from a feeling of responsibility and caring for the interests of the people and the revolution, our union has been trying to deal with the Unionist Socialist Party of Kurdistan [USPK]. Unfortunately, some of the USPK cadres have been behaving in a very irresponsible and unrevolutionary way. They have been showing tribal behavior and have been trying to confuse the people and to keep them from differentiating between friends and enemies. Furthermore, they have been threatening to take revenge on this or that group.

At the beginning of January of this year, Comrade Nawsirwan Mustafa, leadership member of our union, sent a message to an official of this clique asking him to solve, through fraternal and peaceful methods, all the outstanding issues without resorting to violence. He expressed our union's readiness to start immediate talks. Our comrade received a positive reply asserting the other side's readiness for cooperation. Therefore, Comrade Nawsirwan went to visit the other side and was received warmly at first. A few hours later, Comrade Nawsirwan was told that he was under arrest. Thus it is clear to everyone that Comrade Nawsirwan was arrested in a very unethical way.

Our union has tried in vain to secure the release of Comrade Nawsirwan, using all political and security means. The various Iranian and Iraqi Kurdish parties and organizations have also requested the USPK command to release Comrade Nawsirwan without any strings or delay.

The Kurdistan peshmerga waited for a statement from our union to clarify matters. Meanwhile, they were alerted to resort to arms, if necessary. Yet on the evening 5 February, Comrade Nawsirwan and another comrade were able to escape from detention and reach the ranks of the peshmerga.

Oh brother patriots of the USPK, oh progressive Iraqi powers, it is high time that we unite our forces and ranks. It is high time that we eliminate the reactionaries and the suspect ones among us. We have to try hard in order to unite our organizational and struggling operations and to solve all our problems so we can create a new democratic and free atmosphere for our struggle. We must prevent the divisions of our ranks lest our efforts be wasted. The unity of our ranks will help us to raise high the blessed banners of our revolution, terminate the fascist regime in Baghdad, establish a genuine self-rule in Kurdistan and create true democracy all over Iraq.

Oh supporters and partisans of our union, oh bold peshmerga of Kurdistan, we ask you to be alert. Do not give the enemy and the agents of the regime a chance to adversely affect our people. We call on you to unite your ranks and operations to safeguard the masses' demands. We call for the establishment of a good basis for relations among the various parties and progressive organizations. Let us try to avoid fratricide and let us clip the enemy's wings.

[Signed] Command Committee of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, 16 February 1981

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL

JN241621 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 24 Feb (PETRA)--Asked by JNA about Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's proposals on the Middle East issue, Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said: The report submitted to the 26th CPSU Congress by Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, contained some concepts related to the Middle East issue that can contribute to settling the crisis within the framework of the following points called for by the Soviet president:

1. The call for the convening of an international conference with the attendance of all interested parties, including the PLO. This is an affirmation of the need for the PLO's participation in this effort based on its responsibility for representing the Palestinian people, the rightful owners, in the process of finding a settlement of their problem.
2. The Soviet Union's expression of its readiness to cooperate with the European states and with all those showing a sincere interest in securing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is a positive and constructive stand. This constitutes an encouragement of the European initiative, which stemmed from a good European understanding of the Middle East issue--an understanding which calls for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.
3. The Soviet Union's conviction that a real peace in the Middle East requires that Israel withdraw from the territories it seized by force in the 1967 war. This is in accord with the international stand reflected in the UN Security Council resolution on the unacceptability of the occupation of others' territory by force.
4. The Palestinian people's right to establish their own state on their national soil by exercising their right to self-determination. Jordan sees in guaranteeing this right one of the important bases in any search for a lasting and just peace of the issue [as received].
5. The guaranteeing of the security and sovereignty of the region's states as well as their right to live in peace by means of an international commitment. The UN Security Council is important for insuring the perpetuity of security and peace in the region.

The Jordanian Government welcomes any move to reach a just and comprehensive peace based on the achievement of the Israeli forces' total withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty, and on guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to determine their own destiny, including the establishment of their own state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

BADRAN BRIEFED BY USSR ENVOY ON BREZHNEV SPEECH

JN231530 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 24 Feb (PETRA)--Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Rafik Nishanovich Nishanov today. The Soviet ambassador explained to Prime Minister Badran the points contained in the report Leonid Brezhnev submitted to the 26th CPSU Congress, particularly those concerning the Middle East issue.

The prime minister expressed the Jordanian Government's interest in these points and asked the Soviet ambassador to convey the Jordanian Government's thanks to the Soviet Government and to the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers for their stand on the Middle East issue; for the proposal to discuss the issue in the presence of all the parties concerned in the conflict including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative; and for reiterating this stand based on the need to end the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories occupied in 1967, the need to grant the Palestinian people their legitimate inalienable rights including their right to establish their state on their national soil and the need to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

ROMANIAN DEPUTY PREMIER ARRIVES IN AMMAN 25 FEB

JN251015 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international cooperation, arrived in Amman this morning for a 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on consolidating bilateral economic cooperation. He was received by Engineer 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of transport and acting minister of industry and trade.

EC'S VAN DER KLAUW ARRIVES IN AMMAN 25 FEB

JN251019 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers, arrived in Amman early today for a 3-day visit to Jordan. Dr van der Klaauw will hold talks with Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the area's situation. He will also preside over a meeting of the EC ambassadors in Amman.

Dr van der Klaauw's visit to Jordan comes within the context of a tour that will take him to several area's states as part of the EC's efforts to find a just and durable solution to the Middle East issue.

He was received by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasbi and a number of ministry officials.

AAPSO DELEGATION DEPARTURE STATEMENT NOTES ACCORD

JN242158 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The Soviet AAPSO Committee delegation led by Vladimir Kudryavtsev, deputy chairman of the Soviet AAPSO Committee, left Amman this afternoon at the end of a week-long visit to Jordan during which the delegation met with His Majesty King Husayn and the crown prince. The delegation also met with high-ranking Jordanian officials.

In a statement to the JNA correspondent, Kudryavtsev noted the identical Soviet and Jordanian viewpoint on developments of the Middle East issue particularly the issue of Palestine. He said that the Palestinian issue is clear and that the Soviet and Jordanian stands are one and clear. They call for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and for recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights to determine their future and establish their own independent state on their national soil. The Soviet official added that the Palestinian issue is the central cause of the Middle East crisis. He stressed that the Soviet Union will continue to provide assistance and support for the Palestinian issue in all fields.

The Soviet delegation was seen off by Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni, Senate members, the president of the Jordanian Solidarity and Peace Committee, the Soviet ambassador to Jordan and embassy staff members.

LEBANON TO SUBMIT COMPLAINT TO SECURITY COUNCIL

NC241216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has instructed the Lebanese UN delegation to submit a strongly worded complaint to the Security Council against Israel following the Israeli military operation in Al-Kufur village, southern Lebanon.

BUTRUS FAVORS INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST CONFERENCE

NC241409 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Lebanon is expected to announce its official opinion of Soviet leader Brezhnev's call for an international conference on the Middle East following tomorrow's Cabinet meeting.

In reply to a question today on this subject, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said: Were the Middle East issue to end with a correct and sound political solution, it would be what we have been hoping and working for. An international conference should be held for this purpose in which all parties concerned would take part, including the PLO. The two superpowers should be among those supervising this conference.

LACK OF LEBANESE-ROMANIAN COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINED

NC241533 Beirut AL-BAYRAQ in Arabic 23 Feb 81 p 3

[Excerpt] Why was there no Lebanese-Romanian joint communique issued on the talks which Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei held with Lebanese officials, although one was issued during Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus' visit to Bucharest last year?

Information available to AL-BAYRAQ affirms that the failure to issue a joint communique does not at all mean that the Lebanese-Romanian talks have failed. However, certain differences have cropped up which prevented the Lebanese and Romanian sides from approving the issuance of the joint communique. One of these differences, informed sources say, was the fact that Romania views the Lebanese crisis within the context of the Middle East crisis and believes that a solution to the first is dependent upon the solution of the second. This view contradicts the one taken by Lebanese diplomacy, which advocates a solution to the Lebanese crisis independently from the Middle East crisis, even if such a solution is temporary, because the crisis in Lebanon cannot wait for a solution to the Middle East crisis, which no one knows when and how it will end.

On the other hand during the official Lebanese-Romanian talks the Lebanese side insisted that the joint communique should not be of a routine nature--in other words, the contents of the communique should be based on the spirit of the At-Ta'if conference resolutions. The Romanian side did not agree with this because of Romania's desire not to undermine the close relations it has with the Palestinian resistance.

FRANJIYAH OUTLINES POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR LEBANON

NC242051 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Today [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah submitted to all the religious denominations, influential figures and political forces a plan for an integrated political solution to the Lebanese crisis and called upon all the parties to discuss the plan and agree on the principles which can save Lebanon from the dangers threatening it. He pointed out that the plan is open for any amendment which will be better for Lebanon's future.

In his proposed solution Franjiyah emphasized the need for the removal of all illegal statelets, the disbandment of the armed militias which threaten the existence of the single and united state so that the legitimate state authority can be imposed over all Lebanese territory. He also emphasized the need to reject all forms of direct or indirect division, such as a federation or confederation and the like.

The proposed plan calls for the implementation of the law regarding the limitation on the acquiring of property by foreigners, Lebanon's adherence to the Arab League Charter and other Arab agreements it signed. It considers Israel as an enemy of Lebanon whose aim is to ruin the homeland and undermine the coexistence in the country, which is an antithesis to the Zionist, racist and sectarian state.

The proposed plan stresses the need to adopt the united central political system, while maintaining the present administrative division of the governorates. It also proposes additional organization appendices that would establish broad administrative decentralization.

The proposed plan retains the existing custom regarding the distribution of the three main offices [the offices of the president, the prime minister and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies] and considers each of the three as representative of all the Lebanese. The plan calls for the equal distribution of parliamentary seats and stipulates that the prime minister should be elected by the Chamber of Deputies by a relative majority. The plan is based on the 1943 formula and the constitutional document announced in 1976.

The proposed plan discusses in length the issues of security and defense, and calls for the establishment of a strong army able to shoulder its responsibilities in full so that it can later replace the Arab Deterrent Forces. It also calls for the implementation of the national service law and the abolishment of sectarianism in the army.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE MEMBERS

JN241738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1230 today the members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, led by 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Conference, on the occasion of the convocation of the Permanent Secretariat in Damascus. The meeting was attended by Comrades Muhammad Haydar and 'Abd al-Khatib Nu'man, members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command, and Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, member of the party's Regional Command.

At the beginning of the meeting, 'Umar al-Hamidi conveyed to the president the regards of the Arab homeland's popular, unionist and national organizations represented in the General Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference and affirmed their pride in the steadfastness of Syria--the bastion of confrontation with the enemy--and the support of the Permanent Secretariat for Syria's stand and steadfastness.

The members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference briefed his excellency on the activities of this year's regular meeting and the working plan for 1981 currently under discussion at the session. They also reviewed the situation in the Arab homeland and the necessary efforts to consolidate Arab capabilities for steadfastness and confrontation and for foiling the moves by the Camp David parties and the Jordanian regime to liquidate the Palestinian cause and weaken Arab steadfastness.

The members of the Permanent Secretariat stressed that support for Syria is a pan-Arab duty.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad spoke to the members of the Permanent Secretariat in detail about the situation in the area, stressing that Syria's pan-Arab and principled stand is a firm stand and that our people are determined to remain committed to it regardless of sacrifices. The president also reiterated Syria's decisive support for Arab nationalist forces in their confrontation of all imperialist attempts and conspiracies in the Arab arena.

His excellency the president spoke about the importance of cohesion among nationalist forces and popular organizations in the Arab homeland, the need to escalate popular action to defeat imperialist conspiracies against our Arab masses and the need to work firmly to deal blows to all agents, particularly those who are controlling some Arab regimes and who are carrying out the orders of imperialism through the roles with which they have been entrusted. His excellency the president expressed his confidence that all those who have placed themselves on the side of hostility to our nation and in the trench opposite the Arab masses will inevitably be defeated. His excellency the president said that any regime or rule that is hostile to these masses or conspires against the Arab cause will inevitably collapse.

KHADDAM RETURNS FROM TRIPOLI, PLANS ALGERIA VISIT

JN241904 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus, 24 Feb (SANA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, returned to Damascus this evening at the end of a 1-day visit to Libya during which he delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to brother President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi dealing with the current Arab situation. Khaddam was accompanied on this visit by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. Khaddam will pay a similar visit to Algeria early next week.

TISHRIN VIEWS PHASES OF 'CAMP DAVID CONSPIRACY'

JN210904 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Feb 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Pressing Noble Pan-Arab Responsibility," TISHRIN says: Our nation recalls that the price for the Camp David line, which began with the Sinai agreement, was the destruction of Lebanon as a first step toward destroying the Arab homeland and drowning it in Arab blood. That was the price and the condition for carrying out this line. We also recall the decline in Arab relations which followed the first phase of the Camp David line. That decline was also the price and the condition for enabling As-Sadat to carry out the great conspiracy against the Arab nation. The Kissinger period marked the implementation of Israeli policy in the Middle East. Under Kissinger, all semblance of U.S. policy had completely disappeared and Israeli policy became U.S. policy in the area.

The paper adds: We all recall the Arab situation then. We all recall the bad time that attended and followed the first phase of the conspiracy and which we can rightly call the bad time under As-Sadat. It was an exceptionally bad time in Arab history. Therefore, it called for exceptional steadfastness and patience and endurance. The Arab masses had almost lost hope. But Syria, which had faith in our nation's nobility and unlimited ability in overcoming difficult junctures in its history, led our nation's offensive. It completely surrounded and weakened the Camp David line, which is now at an impasse. But as we said, the price was very heavy. Our nation paid this price through the blood of its sons in Lebanon and Syria. It is still paying it now through the blood of the valiant Iraqi Army, which Saddam has involved in a mad war against Iran to achieve purely American aims. All that was part of the price and condition for the Camp David line.

TISHRIN says: Now, our nation is on the threshold of a new and more dangerous and cunning phase of the Camp David conspiracy. For, in this phase, the United States will be wagering on the Jordanian regime, which is well versed in maneuvering, misleading and deceiving the nation. The Jordanian regime will also have the advantage of having benefited from the pitfalls and failures of the As-Sadat experiment. Like the previous one, in the next phase, there will be efforts to create serious splits in Arab ranks and to disrupt inter-Arab relations as a price and condition for carrying out the conspiracy. Therefore, no matter how hard the figureheads of the Jordanian regime try to disclaim their precise role in the conspiracy through outbidding, maneuvering and concern for the Palestine question and the PLO, all indications are that that regime is deeply involved in the conspiracy against the Palestine question.

After reviewing the roles charted for As-Sadat [as heard], the paper says: The overthrow of the Jordanian regime--with its king, tools, figureheads and agent forces which are linked with imperialist agencies hostile to our nation--is a pressing pan-Arab responsibility. The path toward foiling the new conspiracy against Palestine and the Arab national cause must necessarily pass through the Jordanian regime. The Jordanian Arab people's struggle must be diverted to the main objective of liberating its land and regaining its rights.

ALGERIAFLN'S TALKS WITH GDR GROUP END; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD251138 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0339 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 25 Feb (ADN)--The delegation of the SED Central Committee, led by Politburo Member Erich Mueckenberger, which is currently in Algiers, was received on Tuesday by Mohamed Oherif Messadia, head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee. During the meeting Messadia said that the traditional friendship between the GDR and the Algerian liberation movement will also be shown in Algeria's progressive social development.

In a concluding meeting between the Central Committee delegation and a delegation of the FLN a joint communique was issued. This emphasized that the talks held will contribute to a consolidating of friendship and to a deepening of mutual understanding and represent an important step in furthering cooperation between both parties, peoples and states.

Summary of Communique

LD251146 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0931 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 25 Feb (ADN)--The latest talks between delegation of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] and the Algerian FLN represent an important step in the furthering of cooperation between both parties, peoples and states. This emerges from a communique on the talks which ended in Algiers on Tuesday. The delegation of the SED Central Committee was under the leadership of Politburo member Erich Mueckenberger.

Both sides, concerned at the increasing tension in the international situation, wish to contribute to a firmer consolidation of the forces of socialism and all progressive and democratic forces in the world in the interest of guaranteeing peace and security. They are for removing tension and for disarmament, and condemn the arms race and the creation of further military bases, the stationing of nuclear missiles and the production of further new weapons systems, particularly the neutron bomb.

The SED and the FLN support the struggle of the Palestinian people and decisively condemn the repeated aggression of the racist regime in South Africa against Angola and Mozambique. They assure the revolutionary forces of their full solidarity.

MEXICAN, ALGERIAN MINISTERS VIEW ENERGY TALKS

LD230811 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18 Feb 81 p 3

[APS report: "Setting Up of Working Groups To Monitor Progress of Energy Programs"]

[Text] Algiers--At the conclusion of the Algerian-Mexican talks, Selkacem Nabi, Central Committee member and minister of energy and petrochemical industries, and Jose Andres Oteyza, Mexican minister of natural resources and industrial development, held a press conference at the Ministry of Energy in Algiers on Tuesday afternoon. Before answering the various questions put by the national and foreign press, Mr Oteyza took stock of his talks with Algerian leaders and, in particular, with the Algerian minister of energy.

Mr Oteyza stated that there are several similarities between the two countries' energy programs and that these points in common could be developed and enriched through dialogue and consultation.

To this end the Mexican minister of natural resources stated that by mutual agreement with Algerian leaders several working groups have been set up to monitor the progress of the two countries' energy programs in order to be able to discover how cooperation can be established specifically between the two state-owned companies, Sonatrach and Pemex, especially in the field of the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons, or in the petrochemical industry.

With respect to his talks with the president of the republic and party secretary general and with the Algerian prime minister, Mr Oteyza stated that he expressed his country's interest in continuing the efforts for the holding of a summit in which several heads of state and government would take part to unblock the North-South dialogue.

In addition, Mr Oteyza specified that the basic aim of his visit to Algeria is rapprochement between the two countries, all the more because they have the same characteristics in the energy field and can benefit from each other's experiences.

The Mexican minister of natural resources also stated that he had conveyed a message from the Mexican head of state to the Algerian president.

Answering a question concerning the price of gas, Mr Nabi said that gas formed part of the energy problems which were broached during the talks and that it is not possible to discuss the energy policy of Algeria and Mexico without mentioning the trend in the terms of the exchange of exported goods, including gas.

Mr Nabi also stated that the two countries' approaches to problems are very similar and that they are both in favor of a better valorization of natural gas and also of greater use of gas in their national economies.

TALKS BETWEEN FRENCH, ALGERIAN TRADE UNIONS END

LD250006 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Algerian and French trade union officials have had several meetings in Paris. The meetings ended with a joint communique devoted mainly to immigrant Algerian labor. The two delegations protest aspects of the Algerian-French Government agreements and emphasize that no concrete measures have yet been taken by the French Government to observe the commitments it has undertaken.

The communique also emphasizes that the French Government interprets in rather a restrictive manner the texts [words indistinct] such as that of the renewal of residence permits, the increased number of incidents of police harassment and massive unemployment.

Finally, the General Labor Confederation and the General Union of Algerian Workers confirm their determination to set up in France a trade union body sponsored by the French trade union which will be entrusted with the defense of the social cultural interests of the immigrants and their families.

ASH-SHA'B VIEWS RELATIONS, COMMON STANDS WITH PDRY

LD231547 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Feb 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The Common Denominators Between Algiers and Aden"]

[Excerpts] The PDRY president's visit to Algiers comes at a suitable time, for it provides a valuable opportunity for the exchange of views on the bilateral relations between the two countries, and all that concerns the common destiny that binds them within the framework of the great Arab homeland.

The common denominators that link Algiers and Aden are not confined only to the fact that the two countries are members of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation but also include the similarities of the options of the Algerian and Yemeni revolutions and their strict adherence to principles, clarity of purpose and consistency of stands. These common denominators have made the two countries' views identical on all the developments in the Arab and international fields and on the need not to interfere in the affairs of the sisterly countries, to respect the method of development they have chosen for themselves, and avoid the traps that world imperialism and Zionism are laying for the Arab liberation movement through inciting imaginary fears of this or that regime.

Since the signing of the Camp David agreements and the triumph of the Iranian revolution and the failure of the attempts to strike at and divide that revolution, the Zionist and imperialist provocations have developed into a direct threat to the Gulf region. This threat is particularly evident in the forming and strengthening of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force and the suspect moves of the NATO fleets near the Yemeni coasts. We can only express regret here at the decision of some of the sisterly states to grant "facilities" to the U.S. Navy in particular, despite its clearly obvious aggressive intentions against this part of the Arab homeland.

Those who are colluding with the Zionist and imperialist quarters that are seeking to sow sedition in the area must bear in mind before it is too late that it is easy to get involved in a sedition or a war but it is very difficult to escape the destruction and ruination consequent upon them.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES SSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE 23 FEB

JN240839 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 23 Feb (SUNA)--President Ja'far Numayri addressed the second meeting of the fourth session of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] Central Committee today. The following is the text of the speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brother members of the SSU Central Committee, distinguished guests: Greetings from the triumphant May revolution. I also greet your second meeting of the Central Committee's fourth session; the alliance of our working people's forces and our only organization, the SSU, the symbol of the historical necessity to establish integration, unity and harmony instead of disintegration, strife and dissension in all forms of the national life.

Our meeting today comes at a time when the noble triumphant march of the gigantic revolution has made strides--strides imbued with victory--and gains embraced by the love and support of the masses. In our meeting today, our steps have been well established and the aim of our goals has been made clear. We are today entertaining a pause of meditation, observation and investigation. It is the pause of a people and nation who cannot retreat from the march of the comprehensive revolution until the end of the road. It is a revolution against the old in all its backward and petrified forms.

I want to make it clear that those who are beset with dreams of taking the revolution backward in order to be in harmony with the petrified ideas and positions of racism, sectarianism and tribalism do not belong in the revolution's system or among the masses of the alliance. We will confront all these elements by means of revolutionary decisiveness. This will constitute the revolution's way of purging the revolution of these groups and cliques. I swear by God that I will never allow the revolution's institutions to be an arena for old conflicts, dismemberment and party politics. I also swear by God that I will never allow the revolution's institutions to be turned into new arenas of conflict over power and control.

In July the revolution was on the defensive. The revolution did not treacherously attack those who raised the banners of hostility because it is a unity maker, a unity advocate and a unity pioneer. This is how the revolution once again initiated the national reconciliation in July. It neither set conditions nor succumbed to conditions except one; namely, to work within the framework of Sudan's unity and for the sake of this unity. Through this reconciliation the revolution emphasized that the Sudanese people alone are capable of overcoming the wounds of differences irrespective of their bitterness, as long as the differences are confined to the means and not to the objectives and as long as the aim which unifies them asserts their unity as a homeland, nation, land and will. The 25 May revolution has thus proved to be lofty, above everything transient as long as it does not harm the essence of its objectives--the alliance of the working people's forces, the sole political organization, the charter of its national work and its permanent constitution. Thus, the 25 May revolution has proven to be not only capable of standing fast alone, but also of tolerating and not ignoring those opposing it and of interacting with those who believe they can add something to it through its institutions and charters within the framework of its sovereignty. The national reconciliation was and will continue to be an honor in the history of those who participated in it by sincerely pledging to abide by their commitments toward it.

It is time to turn the page on reconciliation, since it is a means that has achieved its ends. It is inconceivable for the means to remain when the ends have been achieved. We have kept the door wide open for participation without restrictions. We have been firm and will continue to be firm in advocating reconciliation aimed at achieving development and introducing changes under the canopy of principles and objectives and within the context of the institutions and charters. Inasmuch as the doors were kept wide open for those who accepted reconciliation, the time is ripe for them to absorb and participate in the experiment. The choice is theirs from now until April to take part in what they adhered to; namely, unity of allegiance, unity of affiliation and sincere pledge to their promise. Only those who have accepted the unity and powers of the one party system as a framework for the unity of the Sudanese people and nation have a place in the system and its leadership.

Brother members of the Central Committee, I reaffirm before you that there is no alternative to the objectives and ideas of the national action charter. There is no alternative to the formula of our people's forces' great alliance. There is no alternative to national unity as an irreplaceable means to bring about broader popular participation. There is no alternative to our Islamic way, which makes the holy Koran and tradition a gauge for behavior. There is no alternative to development in which justice accompanies progress and in which building is based on the human values and social development.

How could we as ruling political organization broaden the circle of participation under this flexible formula and what are the guarantees for attaining this objective? The answer to this is not free of interpretation and discussion. Therefore, we must draw up a number of principles which might achieve the purpose.

1. We must attach great importance to the revolution's man in order to render him under all circumstances and in all fields a working man and an active member committed by his ideas, work and objectives. The commitment is the one that determines the sound member. Membership cannot be measured by number of cards and size. It is only measured by commitment, work and responsibility.
2. We must confine the actual membership, its classification and the nature of its organizational movement to the people's sectors so that it can actually express and confront the masses' problems.
3. Our action plans should stem from the masses and, consequently, the masses should participate in the implementation of these plans. This would incite the masses to join the masses' organization.

4. The drawing up of programs and the laying down of phased frameworks remains a necessity and a revolutionary duty for the organization's activities, particularly in the next stage, with the aim of promoting the society's experiment under the canopy of the popular organization.

5. We must entrench the principle of criticism and self-criticism. This must be the revolution's way of placing matters in their sound position and of pointing out mistakes for the sake of correcting them. This criticism should be made inside and not outside the departments. Therefore, any criticism that incites charges against the organization by means of ways outside the organization is destructive criticism.

6. The political organization must give its full attention to the good and righteous elements among our people. It must train and rehabilitate them so as to insure a continuous flow of trained and qualified people for the revolution.

7. The political organization must control all activities in public life. It must frankly and courageously tackle all problems that hinder progress. It must amend and rectify all rules and regulations that restrict public freedom. It must also revise old ideas and antiquated government systems and relations contributing to backwardness.

8. For the political organization to be effective, it must strictly adhere to the rules and apply its bylaws so that rights and duties will be perfectly clear.

9. The SSU, which is now leading the campaign of decentralization through local government, must itself be organizationally and politically sound so that it can successfully achieve this noble objective. It must hold one view on every objective, plan and program and it must function as one organization by determining tasks, responsibilities and powers and coordinating the work of all its departments during the implementation stage.

10. The main purpose of collecting membership fees is not to insure an income but to underscore the permanent close relationship between the members and their organization. Still, we cannot ignore fees as a great source of income and a means of self-sufficiency.

Brothers and sisters, we will continue on the path of development despite all hardships. We will continue on this path because we have no other choice. Our generation happens to live in a world characterized by manufactured inflation and spiraling prices, a world in which the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. There is no salvation except through work and production. Production and more production--this is the only possible course to salvation. Under the present world economic order, there is no pity for those who do not work and sweat to insure their needs. I said this in my speech to the nation on the eve of the silver jubilee of the country's independence, and I am repeating it now: Our national model for development is one that is coupled with justice and progress. This model is founded on human values and social development.

Brothers and sisters, members of the Central Committee, regional government has become a reality and a true fulfillment of our hopes. Public exercise of authority is no longer a slogan, but a tangible democratic reality. The people exercise this authority for their own sake, not for the sake of others who might claim such authority through inheritance. The people today exercise the democracy of passing and implementing their own decisions. It is the democracy of the alliance of our people's working forces--workers, farmers, technicians, soldiers and national capitalists. They are equal in their efforts and partners in their aims and methods. Regional government has become a reality that expresses the will of the people.

Brothers and sisters, I have told the masses of our people on the eve of the independence anniversary that in pursuing the path of regional government Sudan will be facing obstacles and dangers. This is because regional government is not an ordinary step but a big leap. Therefore, it calls for full consciousness and vigilance.

Brothers, such a mighty leap is bound to face conspiracies at home and abroad. It is, after all, a mighty step, as I said. Therefore, it behooves you to assume equally greater responsibilities by mobilizing the masses and enlightening them. This is the only way we can face the enemies and foil all their conspiracies to hamper the accomplishment of this great task and to undermine its purposes.

Brothers and sisters, our foreign policy continues to be based on the contents of the national action charter: commitment and international and regional charters; faithfulness to the issue of liberating occupied Arab land and holy Jerusalem, as well as the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and the establishment of their free state under the leadership of the PLO; commitment to the issues of liberation and opposition to racism in southern Africa; achievement of Arab solidarity; need for the unity of ranks for the sake of our fateful issues; and formulation of an Arab action strategy. We are convinced that this can only be attained by consolidating the Arab League's effectiveness through reconsidering its charter and structures with the aim of developing the league in its capacity as the tool directing collective Arab action.

The formulation of this strategy depends on the completion of its economic side. This was the source of our support for the joint Arab economic action strategy which was proposed at the recent Amman summit with the aim of supporting the Arab economic institutions. These institutions were founded to help the poor Arab countries and to open the door to Arab capital for investment in the Arab countries. Sudan has made big strides in this regard and has even gone beyond that to the field of tripartite cooperation between the Arab material resources, the Sudanese natural resources and the European cultural resources. Until this cooperation bears its fruit we must support the existing dialogue between the Arab countries and Europe and eliminate all obstacles impeding it.

By virtue of its geographical location in the heart of the African Continent, which is considered the strategic depth for the Arab work, Sudan enjoys, as is known, an influential position in the field of Arab-African cooperation and in establishing its sound concepts. Thus, our continued efforts in this field, which were made to organize the second Arab-African summit, are an extension of our efforts in bringing about the first Arab-African summit conference.

There is no alternative to our support for the struggle of the revolutionaries in Namibia and South Africa and to our support for economic cooperation among the African states, particularly the resolutions adopted at the Lagos economic summit which call on the African countries to bolster development and trade exchange so that we can achieve self-sufficiency in food by the year 2000.

The period that followed the previous meeting of the Central Committee witnessed a huge move in field of consolidating the policy of good-neighbor relations and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of others. We contacted the neighboring countries in order to develop bilateral cultural relations and to cooperate with them in all fields to create a common ground and gain their confidence, which rendered Sudan capable of solving the differences that might ensue between it and these countries and between the area's countries. Our understanding of the nature of the area's problems would qualify us to play a major role in finding a peaceful solution for the Eritrean issue, the Somali-Ethiopian conflict and the issue of struggle in Uganda. Proceeding from this policy I had my contacts and direct consultations with the leaders of the area in (Arushu), Nakuru, Mombasa, Khartoum and Addis Ababa. These contacts laid down strong bases for the regional cooperation of the area's peoples.

Such good offices, which aim at achieving cooperation and good-neighbor relations, are usually obstructed by the other countries' intervention in the affairs of the area's states. The Republic of Chad is the best example. We have closely followed the issue of Chad since the beginning. Our principal aim was and still is to help our brothers attain reconciliation and solve their differences by means of a dialogue, to enable them to establish security and stability in our neighboring sister [state].

We have also participated in the Lagos and Lome conferences, which laid down the sound bases for halting the bloodshed. However, the nonfulfillment of these efforts led in the end to the Libyan military intervention in Chad, which threatens our national security as well as the security of the entire region. The Libyan forces are not alone in this intervention, for they are backed by the forces of other countries. Such an intervention is bound to make the entire area a zone for the superpowers' struggles. The influx of Chadian refugees into Sudan as a result of the war of annihilation launched by Libya there is bound to intensify Sudan's economic and security burdens. Our rejection of this intervention is not only due to its effect on security or because we enjoy historical and cultural relations with the Chadian people, but also because this intervention is a violation of international laws, norms and principles, the OAU's charter and international charters. We have taken upon ourselves the task of defending and abiding by them.

Our differences with Libya involve principles and bases related to the inadmissibility of occupying the land of others by means of force. This is what Libya is practicing today in Chad. If this action were admissible, we would legalize Israel's occupation of our Arab territories. Our dispute with Libya is not one resulting from the implications of its colonialist practices in Chad vis-a-vis Sudan's security alone but also its threat to the African countries' unity, independence and sovereignty. It is a threat to the unity of African nations. It entices division and dismemberment and the foreigner to play havoc with the African nations' unity and dignity. Libya's practices in Chad not only reflect on the security and stability in Chad and the African Continent but also constitute an invitation to foreign forces to take over the protection of African countries against the designs of other African countries. It is an invitation to international conflict inside the continent and an open invitation for the establishment of foreign military bases for safety and security purposes.

Libya's practices in Chad are not merely an attack on the Chadian people alone and aimed at dividing their land and people; they are first and foremost a stab against Arab-African solidarity and Islamic-Christian brotherhood.

When we say no to the Libyan colonization of Chad we intend to call on Libya and others of the OAU to perform their duty in order to restore stability to Chad and achieve its national and geographical unity for the sake of peace, security and progress in the African Continent.

Brothers, our move is not confined to the Arab and African arenas. It goes beyond them to embrace all forms of international cooperation. Sudan today has special confidence in the European group, which is viewing Sudan as the voice of reason working for the sake of establishing peace in the area and for [words indistinct] world economic cooperation. This has led to increasing the cooperation between this group's states and Sudan. They assisted Sudan economically and granted it loans. They also agreed to reschedule Sudan's debts with them. Some of them have even released Sudan from these debts. This is also applied to the United States, with which our technical, trade and economic cooperation has reached a satisfactory level. Our cooperation has extended to include the East European countries. Our joint committees have been active with some of these states, and some of them have shown good intentions toward developing our bilateral relations. The socialist countries are headed by the PRC, which came to us as a loyal friend. It has and continues to participate in building our economy. We entertain convergent views with regard to nonintervention in the other states' domestic affairs and full respect for these countries.

Brothers, intervention in the affairs of other countries has recently become the prevailing characteristic of the policy of some states. Thus, Muslim Afghanistan became the victim of such intervention under false pretexts, such as that the intervention took place at the request of the governments of the concerned countries, at a time when the people of these countries oppose this intervention and brandish arms in its face.

It behooves all Muslims throughout the world to unify their solidarity with the Afghan mujahidin and to support them with arms, money and training to enable them to expel the invaders from their country.

We must praise the Islamic countries, particularly fraternal Saudi Arabia, for their initiative in holding the Islamic Conference summit, which discussed at length all the fateful issues, such as the liberation of Jerusalem, the land of Palestine and Afghanistan and Islamic economic cooperation. The Mecca declaration came as an Islamic course [word indistinct] among the Islamic countries and between these countries and the rest of the world's countries. Sudan had the honor of participating in the legal drafting of this declaration. We have also effectively participated in discussing the question of the area's security, particularly the struggle in the Horn of Africa and Eritrea. This has resulted in the fact that the conference did not adopt radical resolutions that are bound to obstruct Sudan's march, made for the sake of solving the problems peacefully and in a manner acceptable to all sides by means of dialogue and negotiations. [At this point, SUNA signed off without completing the speech.]

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON CONTACTS WITH FRANCE

LD241021 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Feb 81 pp 1, 4

[Michel Deure undated interview in Tunis with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali: "Franco-Tunisian Talks"]

[Text] [Question] France is the first Western country to which you will be paying an official visit since your appointment as prime minister. What significance do you attach to this choice and what do you expect from your visit?

[Answer] Indeed, France is the first European country which I will visit. Obviously, it is not a matter of mere chance. I must say that our relations with European countries are good and, on the whole, satisfactory since, in fact, in a genuinely nonaligned spirit the Tunisian people want to engage in a kind of diplomacy consistent with cordial relations with all neighboring and friendly countries. But there is much more than that between Tunis and Paris. Since the most remote times, there have always been permanent contacts, exchanges and economic, cultural or simply human relations between us. As you know, the first exchanges of ambassadors between the two countries took place as long ago as the times of the Aghlabids (LE MONDE note: North African Arab dynasty in power from 800 through 909) and Charemagne. True, the protectorate period intervened, but in a few days' time we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of independence... and as far as our daily relations, our political views and our exchanges are concerned, I believe that the spirit which President Bourguiba and also men like Mr Mandes-France have instilled into our generation will not be impaired by future generations (LE MONDE note: In 1954, Mr Mendes-France, who was prime minister at that time, signed agreements granting Tunisia internal autonomy which was to lead to the country's independence less than 2 years later).

In fact, it is in accordance with this spirit that we maintain close relations which could be called special relations. It is in accordance with this spirit that our two countries have met and, finally, it is in accordance with this spirit that Presidents Bourguiba and Giscard d'Estaing have been able to establish many contacts. Finally, in September Mr Barre was the first European statesman at this level to visit Tunisia since the formation of the new government. As a result, our views are generally similar, whether with respect to the determination of preconditions for sound cooperation or with respect to our assessment of certain aspects of international problems and world economic problems.

[Question] For the past 4 months, experts from the two countries have continued their discussions about the creation of a Tunisian-French investment bank, with the participation of Arab capital, to which Mr Barre has agreed. How far has this plan progressed? And what Arab countries have been associated with it?

[Answer] Discussions among experts have made it possible to determine the outline of the plan and to work out a draft agreement which will, I hope, be initialed during my coming visit to Paris by the French banks which have agreed to participate in it, and which are among the most important and representative French banks (LE MONDE note: the banks concerned are Banque de Paris et Des Pays-Bas, Credit Agricole and, probably, Credit Commercial Francais). Furthermore, discussions with our Arab partners--Iraq and the Emirates--are proceeding normally and the three participants in this tripartite venture are to finally sign the agreement, probably in the course of next month.

"Using the Question of Immigrants for Electioneering Purposes"

[Question] Are you concerned by the problem of Tunisian immigrant workers in Europe in general and France in particular? How have you reacted to the attitude adopted by the French Communist Party toward immigrants and to the recent incidents which occurred at Vitry and Montigny-les-Cormeilles, for instance?

[Answer] It certainly is not just today that the Tunisian Government has become concerned about the emigration problem. Right from the beginning, emigration has been deemed to be an essentially provisional solution. And the aim of our entire policy and of our development plans is, in fact, to reduce unemployment and emigration as soon as possible. Obviously, the question of immigration exists in France and Europe. A few years ago, there was a vital need for immigrants in Europe because young Europeans were unwilling to engage in certain unpleasant and poorly paid work. Today, as we know, in view of the economic crisis and the difficulties facing enterprises more or less throughout the world--the competition and the need for new strategies--an increasing number of young and not-so-young Europeans find it difficult to find or resume employment. Hence the present temptation to repudiate "foreigners"--Africans, Maghrebians, Turks and so forth--even though the presence of these immigrants, in fact, helps to safeguard the economy and, consequently, employment. It must be said that there is a trend toward using this phenomenon for demagogic or electioneering purposes both by the extreme left and the extreme right. We can only regret this.

But I believe that you should not generalize and that the French people as a whole can be patient and even considerate hosts with respect to this special category of guests, namely, immigrants. I have been pleased to see that many political personalities from the government, the majority and the opposition have been able to take steps to mitigate these dissensions and prevent their development into a conflict of a racist nature. With reference to this, I must say that the Tunisian Government duly appreciated Mr Raymond Barre's statements in which he asserted the French Government's desire to pursue, despite the consequences of the crisis, a policy favorable to the moral and social development of immigrants in France.

[Question] With less than 1 year to go before your sixth development plan comes into force, what aid are you expecting from France?

[Answer] Rather than "aid" we want new, expanded, extended and diversified cooperation with France relating to both the economic and financial spheres and the social and cultural spheres. The sixth plan emphasizes advanced industrialization going beyond the stage of licensed industry [industrie de substitution] involving greater Tunisian added value, calling for more marked transfers of technology and requiring a wider range and larger-scale production.

Extending our cooperation depends on setting up the largest possible number of joint projects in which we will share the risks and responsibilities of technical, commercial and financial management. These joint projects could be extended to their partners, notably Maghreb, Arab or African partners. Tunisia has reached a stage of development which enables it to act as a catalyst and focal point for this type of project. It is providing itself with the means of doing this since, in addition to the investment bank which has just been mentioned, and the Tunisian Economic Development Bank which is already operating, two other major institutions--the Tunisian-Kuwaiti Development Bank and the Tunisian-Saudi Investment Company--which have already been set up, each with \$250 million capital, will form the financial backing for this large-scale industrialization in which we hope to fully associate France and French industry and technology. France and French culture are present in Tunisia to the extent that we all know and we welcome that. On the other hand French industry and technology are still "vendors" as far as Tunisia is concerned and not "entrepreneurs" and "partners," ensuring real cooperation with some link with French industry.

The balance between the cultural and industrial aspects of our cooperation is essential so that all aspects can continue to give our cooperation its characteristic preferential nature.

[Question] Could you explain the nature, and also the limitations, of the "political choice" that your government is making by deciding to encourage Arab investments?

[Answer] This political choice is natural. What would be unnatural would be to fail to have with the fraternal countries of the Arab world cooperation at least as broad, extensive and developed as we do and which we want to safeguard and expand with the friendly European and American countries, particularly France. This cooperation with the Arab world is political, economic and financial but also embraces culture and civilization, taking into account the similarity of language and religion which bind us to the Arab community. The only limit on it is observance of our sovereignty, our options and our interests.

[Question] Tunisia has followed the latest developments in Chad attentively. What is your opinion? Has the Libyan foreign secretary's recent visit to Tunis dispelled the reservations, if not disquiet, which they had prompted? How did you receive France's stance on the problem?

[Answer] If Tunisia has followed everything that has happened in Chad attentively it is quite simply because as an Arab and African country it obviously feels concerned about everything that happens in the region. Having said that, Chad's tragedy, the tragedy of that people condemned to unrest, turbulence and civil war, has lasted too long. And the fact that Chad, like Tunisia, is a OAU member is not alien to our concerns. In this connection we expressed these concerns well before the latest developments and have not failed to talk freely about them to our Libyan brothers, who have told us specifically that the Chadian people's desire to express themselves freely and to choose entirely independently will be respected.

As for France's position, we will take advantage of this visit to exchange viewpoints on this subject.

BRIEFS

LIBYA-GREECE PROTOCOL--Tripoli, 12 Feb (JANA)--The secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and the Greek minister of state in charge of economic coordination signed yesterday a protocol for the third session of the Libyan Arab-Greek joint committee for bilateral cooperation. The protocol covers the agricultural, industrial, economic, scientific and technical fields. The Greek minister left Tripoli yesterday after taking part in the meetings of the third session of the Libyan Arab-Greek joint committee.

[Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 12 Feb 81 LD]

BEGIN VIEWS REAGAN'S PRIORITIES, OTHER ISSUES

TA241614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that the Middle East must be at the center of the world's interest. Meeting with the Foreign Press Association in Israel, Mr Begin said that the Middle East is in constant turmoil, including the Iran-Iraq war, the tension between Jordan and Syria, and Libya's activity. All these, the prime minister believes, require the world to treat the Middle East as a central issue. The prime minister stressed that Israel is thus expressing its own stand but if it is not accepted we shall go on living and prepare to defend ourselves.

Mr Begin was replying to a question from one of the reporters who asked for a reaction to the position of the new administration in Washington, by which the Middle East should not be given top priority.

Regarding the autonomy talks, the prime minister said that he still does not know whether the U.S. administration favors their postponement. The prime minister said that postponement is desirable but we will not impose ourselves on anyone.

On the subject of the settlements, the prime minister said that Israeli policy had not changed and the government will not establish more than 10 new settlements, as was decided several months ago.

Replying to another question, Mr Begin said that Israel and South Africa are not cooperating in the nuclear arms sphere. Israel, the prime minister stressed, will not be the first to introduce nuclear arms into the region. Mr Begin reiterated Israel's opposition to the United States' intention to supply additional offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia and Israel's opposition to the European initiative for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

With respect to his visit to the United States, Mr Begin said he would not invite himself and the subject now rests with President Reagan.

Balance of Forces

TA241615 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Gad Becker report--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Becker] The prime minister today warned against the upsetting of the balance of forces in the region because of many arms deals in the Arab world. If this happens, Israel will have to see to maintaining that balance. The possibility that West Germany will sell Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia was termed awful by Mr Begin.

The prime minister spoke about the United States' commitment to form a multinational supervisory force in the Sinai. If that force is not established, will Israel not withdraw from the Sinai, the prime minister was asked.

[Begin--in English] This commitment is an integral part of the peace treaty and it should be carried out, of course, before we withdraw to the international border.

Normalization Issue

TA241643 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1615 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Mr Begin today, on the first anniversary of the establishment of the embassies of the two countries, expressed satisfaction with the progress of normalization of relations with Egypt, which has occurred in many aspects. However, Mr Begin expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that only a few Egyptians came to visit in Israel, compared to an ever-growing number of Israelis visiting Egypt.

About Israel's action on behalf of the Christians in Lebanon, Mr Begin said that "as an Israeli citizen I am proud for the aid that we are extending to the Christians; and any person of good will should do likewise."

Brezhnev Statement

TA242050 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Elimelekh Ram report--recorded]

[Excerpts] The prime minister said that there will be no municipal elections in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza before the autonomy negotiations are completed. The prime minister was also asked to comment on the statement by Leonid Brezhnev at the CPSU congress about the Middle East:

[Begin in English] Mr Brezhnev did not speak about ensuring the security of Israel. He said that all states in the Middle East, including Israel, should have existence but he asked us to go back to the lines of 4 June 1967, 8 miles from the seashore with all the new weapons given by the Soviet Union also to the PLO, including missiles. In such a situation we would face our implacable enemy from the mountains, in Tel Aviv, in Jaffa and in Rehovot, in all our townships. So where is our security?

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON MEETING WITH REAGAN

TA241816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Interview of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shalom Qital in Washington shortly after Shamir's meeting with President Reagan--recorded]

[Text] [Qital] I am here with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who returned from the White House a short time ago. Mr Foreign Minister, you were with the 40th U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, for 1/2 hour. What were your impressions? What did you talk about?

[Shamir] The talk was extremely friendly. It, in fact, lived up to the expectations. The President, by virtue of his presidential powers, expressed the United States' commitment to Israel's security and well-being; and he, in fact, confirmed all the conclusions reached in our talks with the secretary of state and the secretary of defense.

[Qital] You mentioned Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and immediately after the meeting with Ronald Reagan he did in fact declare that the U.S. is committed to Camp David, to [Security Council Resolutions] 242 and to 338. But there is a different order of priorities: The Soviet menace in fact precedes the Middle East. I assume that on this there is disagreement between you, Reagan and Haig.

[Shamir] It is not a matter of disagreement. We, of course, looking at the reality, view the peace problems of the Middle East as the most important and vital ones. At the same time, the U.S. Government is not postponing the handling of these subjects. It views them also from the point of view of global strategic interests.

[Qital] Mr Foreign Minister, the next stage in the consultations between Israel and the United States is a visit by Secretary of State Haig to the Middle East. When will this take place and does this mean finally that President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin are not coming to Washington?

[Shamir] No official decision has yet been made on the precise date for Secretary Haig's Middle East visit. However, I understand that it will take place in the very near future--I would assume within a time span of 1 month, or close to that--and they regard this visit as a U.S. step which will express the continued U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process.

[Qital] You did not reply to the second part of the question: Does this mean that President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin are not coming to Washington?

[Shamir] No decision has been made on this subject.

[Qital] Foreign Minister Shamir, one more question. Much has been said about the offensive arms deal with Saudi Arabia, about some compensation to or arming of Israel to preserve the balance of forces. When all is said and done, what summations were arrived at?

[Shamir] We expressed our total opposition to the further supply of equipment for planes to Saudi Arabia, and all the rest is, of course, up to the decision of the United States. We pointed out that in view of the arms race in the Middle East the United States must assist us and maintain Israel's qualitative superiority in the balance of forces in the Middle East.

[Qital] Mr Foreign Minister, thank you very much. This concludes Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington. This is Shalom Qital returning you to the studio.

JERUSALEM REACTION TO SHAMIR-REAGAN TALK CITED

TA250659 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Shimon Schiffer report on Jerusalem evaluations of the situation after the Reagan-Shamir talk; recorded--on date given]

[Text] President Reagan has provided the final proof of the correctness of the evaluations about the way in which the Republican administration will function. The Middle East problems, and in particular the continuation of the negotiations over the establishment of autonomy, are no longer the primary issues to be dealt with by the administration. A senior political observer told me last night: "Israel is going to gain several years of calm and ability to work in the administered territories." Reagan, unlike his predecessor, does not regard the Palestinian problem as the source of all the troubles in international events. The Republican administration's order of priorities is different from what it was in the past. First, to deal with domestic problems; then, with what is happening in the Central American countries and putting a stop to Soviet penetration. This does not mean that the administration will ignore what is happening in this part of the world.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig is to come to the area within the near future with the aim of strengthening the allies of the United States here. It appears that the Americans have also opted for this path because they have reached the conclusion that there is no longer any possibility of inviting the prime minister to talks in the United States because of the upcoming elections and also, as I said, because a meeting between Reagan and Begin and between Reagan and As-Sadat would force the administration to learn the autonomy issue in detail, something they do not want to touch at the moment.

Political circles in Jerusalem spoke last night in soothing words. Nobody should be insulted by not having been invited to the United States. Israel will continue to hold all the cards: the territories, freedom of action to establish settlements and, above all, understanding by the U.S. administration of Israel's security needs and, primarily, the granting of the possibility to renew contacts with other countries in the world for the sale of military equipment from Israel, which was not permitted by the Carter administration.

HAIG VISIT EXPECTED TO HELP RENEW PEACE TALKS

TA251115 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Feb 81 pp 1, 15

[By Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin last night received a report on Foreign Minister Shamir's meeting with President Reagan. It is thought in Jerusalem that the U.S. President has decided to postpone Begin's visit, which was planned for April, for fear that the visit would be considered intervention in the Israeli elections.

Following reports that have arrived on Shamir's talks in Washington, it is estimated in Jerusalem that the Middle East visit by Secretary of State Alexander Haig will pave the way for a resumption of the diplomatic negotiations in the region. No developments in the negotiations are expected until Haig's arrival, the view in Jerusalem being that the administration is not at this time attaching supreme importance to the Middle East negotiations, and that this issue is of secondary priority to the United States at this point. Haig's anticipated visit is being described as a highly significant move, symbolizing the continuity of the peace process. During his visit Haig will discuss with the Israelis practical ways to strengthen Israel's security and to integrate it into U.S. strategic deployment in the region. It is possible that even before Haig's arrival talks will be held between Israeli and U.S. working groups to determine the compensation Israel will receive in return for the sale of the offensive weapons for the Saudis' F-15 planes, and for the U.S. tank deal with Jordan.

Foreign Minister Shamir was told during his U.S. visit that the United States will compensate Israel in a most substantial way for these deals, and that Israel would be given substantial guarantees that these U.S. arms supplies will not adversely affect the balance of power.

Tomorrow Israel and the U.S. will begin negotiations on establishing a multinational force to supervise the peace treaty in Sinai. The U.S. delegation to these talks is arriving in Israel today, led by Michael Sterner, deputy assistant to the secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

POLITICAL CIRCLES CONCERNED ABOUT HAIG REMARK

TA241245 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Feb 81 p 1

[By political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Senior political observers in Jerusalem yesterday expressed concern about a remark made by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in an interview with Israeli television on Sunday.

Haig spoke about the "Camp David framework" instead of referring to the Camp David accords. The observers were anxious that this remark might conceal a Reagan administration intention to renege on the contents and clauses of the Camp David accords.

The observers also believe that Secretary of State Haig--who also stated in the same television interview that he intended to visit Israel "sooner rather than later"--would not arrive in Israel before 30 June.

Great satisfaction was expressed in Jerusalem yesterday over the permission Israel received from the U.S. administration to sell the Kfir aircraft independently, without U.S. interference. It was pointed out that because of the U.S. objection in the past Israel had lost very profitable deals for the sale of the Kfirs.

Political circles yesterday said they were looking forward to another compensation to Israel on the aid issue in the wake of the supply of U.S. offensive equipment to Saudi Arabia. These circles were persuaded that the U.S.-Saudi arms deal would materialize and there was no longer sense in fighting against it.

Official elements last night refused to evaluate whether Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's talks in Washington had been successful. They said that the visit would be evaluated only after Shamir holds the decisive meeting with the U.S. President today. As of yesterday, no report had been received on Shamir's talks.

U.S. CONSIDERING IDEA OF STATIONING EQUIPMENT

TA241335 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Feb 81 p 1

[By U.S. correspondent Gid'on Samet]

[Text] A revolutionary concept in the history of the military aid relations between Israel and the United States has recently been discussed by the U.S. Department of Defense. Although the new concept did not stem from the dialogue on the Saudi arms deal, it may become involved in it as one of the benefits to be given Israel. The reference is to the stationing of aircraft, tanks, ammunition and other U.S. equipment in Israel without Israel having to purchase it.

The idea, currently in the initial stages of discussion, refers mainly to the countries closest to the Persian Gulf, such as Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The considerations behind this concept are military and financial and involve the U.S. plans for deployment in various parts of the region. According to the plan, the IDF will keep the equipment and maintain it in workable condition in case the United States needs it for a military operation in the Persian Gulf. As for Israel, the equipment would be put at its disposal in times of special emergency, as was the case during the airlift in 1973. Since the equipment will not be owned by Israel, it will not be included in the list of U.S. equipment sold to Israel and Israel will even be paid for maintenance expenses.

The possibility should not be ruled out that this idea will be further contemplated in the upcoming discussions between Israel and the United States as possible compensation to Israel for the supply of additional equipment to Saudi Arabia.

HA'ARETZ DESCRIBES U.S. MAP OF ARAB-OWNED LAND

TA251102 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 81 pp 1, 2

[By Military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Within the framework of the preparations for the autonomy negotiations, which also includes the matter of the status of state lands and lands that were owned by Jews in the West Bank, the State Department has drawn up a special map which shows, inter alia, those lands in Israel that belong to Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria. From this map it emerges that many Israeli settlements in the Sharon Valley and elsewhere are located on Arab land.

The U.S. map was prepared during the previous administration's term, when the sides were due to discuss the fate of state domain land in the West Bank. Israel contends that it has the right to retain state land in the West Bank, and of course land that was owned by Jews, such as in the 'Ezyon bloc, in order to establish Jewish settlements on them. The Egyptians contend that these lands should be in the hands of the authorities who run the autonomy which is to be set up, and not in Israeli hands.

This argument was not resolved, and it transpires that the United States has meanwhile prepared a map that could be of assistance to the Arab stand. This map indicates that there is far more Arab land in Israel than Jewish land in the West Bank, and this land is owned by Arabs residing in Judaea and Samaria.

This reporter has seen the map in question and it appears to have been drawn up in accordance with information provided by two main sources: a survey carried out by the British mandate's Lands Registration Authority in 1946, and the Jordanian lands registry on the situation in 1957.

This map shows that the Arab lands in question are to be found mainly near the green line, but in some places they extend deep inside Israeli territory; for instance, in the vicinity of 'Arad. This is particularly so in the Sharon plain, where the map shows numerous black spots denoting land belonging to West Bank Arabs, for instance the land around Ra'anana and in the vicinity of Kfar Saba. Settlements such as Nir Eliyyahu and Eyal, according to this map, are situated on Arab land. Settlements on the slopes of Mount Gilboa', such as Nir Yafe, Ma'ale Gilboa' and others are also on Arab land. According to this U.S. map, a large tract of land belongs to Arabs from the area between Tulkarm and the coast close to Netanya. This includes land near Kfar Netter, Beit Lid and settlements such as Nizanne 'Oz, Beit Yitzhaq and Burgeta. Only Kfar Yona appears to be outside this area which, according to the map, is owned by Arabs.

RESERVATIONS ABOUT AS-SADAT'S PROPOSALS CONVEYED

TA241302 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Feb 81 p 1

[By political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel has officially informed Egypt of its reservations about President Anwar as-Sadat's declarations on the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile.

Israel's reservations were contained in a letter conveyed from the director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Qimhi, to Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Sa'd Murtada.

In the message Israel further stated that President as-Sadat's proposals contradicted the Camp David accords and the peace process.

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS DRAFT 1981 BUDGET

TA241018 Jerusalem POST in English 24 Feb 81 pp 1, 2

[By Knesset Correspondent Arye Rubinstein]

[Excerpt] Presenting the government's draft budget of 206 billion Israeli shekels, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor said yesterday that the government's cardinal task in fiscal 1981 would be to bring inflation down to two digits. The budget for fiscal 1980 totalled 97.1 billion shekels.

But the budget does not give the government much leeway for missing the mark: It is based, Aridor said, on a rise in the cost-of-living of 98 percent.

The government's wage policy for 1981 should help reduce inflation, Aridor said. This policy would maintain the real value of wages by raising the cost-of-living allowance to 100 percent of the rise in the index. He did not say that this would be done monthly.

But there would be no "bursting out" of existing collective wage agreements, and increases would be approved only if higher output justified them, Aridor promised.

He said that in accordance with government decisions, settlement activity would continue in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, the Jordan Rift valley, the Golan Heights, Galilee, and Pit'hat Shalom (Habesor District).

"Settlement in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el is based on our right and is vital to our defence. We shall realize our right. We shall insure our defence."

Aridor said that defence still eats up close to one-third of the budget. Despite peace with Egypt, the defence budget could not be cut, he said.

As to price policy, the minister said that the government would take a middle course. Steep price increases would be prevented, but there would be no price freeze either, for that would entail massive printing of money.

Taxes would be reduced on additional consumer goods that are now heavily taxed. This would create expectations that the rate of inflation would decelerate, and increased sales would boost state revenue from purchase taxes and customs duties, Aridor said.

This policy would also lead to an increase in imports, but the overall result would be food for the economy, the minister asserted.

He said that no new taxes were planned. A special deduction would be allowed on paper profits stemming from inflation.

Aridor said that the policy of restraining credit would continue, even with respect to exports. But the "necessary steps" would be taken to ensure the continued profitability and expansion of exports.

The number of unemployed would be similar to the number in the second half of 1980, Aridor said.

The government would not deliberately create unemployment, but where anti-inflationary measures resulted in unemployment here and there, it would be dealt with.

Aridor said that the budget presupposed implementation of the government's decision to cut manpower by an additional 3 percent in government ministries and in the public sector that is partly financed from the state budget.

The House Committee allocated seven hours for the debate, which began immediately after Aridor finished and will be continued today.

Settlement Allocation

TA241230 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Feb 81 p 1

[By Yosef Pri'el]

[Excerpt] The allocation in the state budget for the Housing Ministry Settlement Department will be designed for the consolidation and expansion of existing settlements and for the establishment of 11 new settlements.

Nine of the settlements will be established in Judaea and Samaria--Levona, Rehan B. Hadasha, Teqo'a B. Mizpe Guvrin, Na'ama, Yabboq, and Shomron B--and two settlements will be established in the Qatif bloc in the Gaza Strip--Gadid and Gan Or. The establishment and fleshing-out of these settlements will cost 739 million Israeli shekels. The Housing Ministry's allocation is based on the planned construction of 1,000 housing units in the urban settlements of Qarne Shomron and Giv'on during the coming year.

With this allocation the Settlement Department intends to turn several observation posts in the Galilee into full-fledged settlements, to complete construction of the Pithat Shalom area and to establish new settlements in the 'Arava, the Negev mountains and the slopes of Mount Hebron.

POLL INDICATES INFLATION MOST PRESSING CONCERN

TA250917 Jerusalem POST in English 25 Feb 81 p 3

[By Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Inflation is the most pressing problem for Israelis, with defence coming next, but much lower down on the scale of importance. This emerges from the Jerusalem POST's "Mood of the Nation" poll conducted at the beginning of this month by the Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Research Centre. Of the 1,273 adults questioned, one-third said their standard of living had declined in the past year. Nearly 60 percent had little hope it would improve if Labor came to power. A similar majority doubted whether Labor had the panacea for raging inflation.

Question. Please state which problem facing the country bothers you most: economy/inflation--58.8 percent, defence--7.9, social gap--7.5, social morality/quality of life--3.9, emigration--3.6, lack of leadership.government not functioning properly--2.6, peace process--2.1, foreign policy and information (hasbara)--1.9, housing--1.4, undecided--8.6.

Concern about inflation pervades all social strata, but while it bothered 63.6 percent of Labor voters, the ratio dipped to 56.3 percent among Likud supporters and to 56.6 percent of the floating vote which comprises one-third of the electorate.

Question. Do you believe that a Labor government will manage to curb inflation?

Yes--16.9 percent; maybe--44 percent; no--38.1 percent; undecided--1 percent.

Question. How has your living standard fared in the past year?

Rose steeply--4.1 percent, rose slightly--11.9 percent, no change--35.3 percent, dropped slightly--30.2 percent, dropped steeply--18 percent, undecided--0.5 percent.

Question. If Labor forms the next government how do you expect your living standard to fare?

Rise steeply--2.3 percent, rise slightly--15.5 percent, no change--58 percent, drop steeply--4.4 percent, undecided--7.3 percent.

While 48.2 percent say its living standards have declined under the Likud, only 17.9 percent expect a further decline if Labor takes office. However, the majority (about 60 percent) see no change in sight.

Analysis of the results shows that 50 percent of Labor voters, 51.6 percent of the floating vote, and 42 percent of Likud supporters say that they lost out in the Likud years. However, only one-third of Labor voters expect any improvement under a Labor government, with this ratio dropping to 7.5 percent of Likud supporters and 12.2 percent of the floating vote.

IDF REBUILDS, OPERATES TANKS HIT IN 1973 WAR

TA241751 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Government Press Office communique]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, 24 Feb--Virtually all the tanks that were hit in the Yom Kippur war have been rebuilt by the ordnance corps and returned to operational service in the IDF as new tanks. The rebuilding work saved many millions of pounds [currency as received], since additional tanks were added to the armed forces in which the investment was less than one-third the price of a new tank. Among the tanks were dozens of improved Centurions and Pattons which were badly hit, some of which actually exploded in the area of the Chinese farm.

In the past, these tanks would have become, for lack of any alternative, scrap or would have been used for target practice. The overhauling and rebuilding of these tanks, which were badly hit, was made possible by the advanced assembly line of the Merkava tank, which is located in the IDF's tank workshop.

Because of the lack of a budget and of the scale of priorities, these tanks were moved to the IDF's junk yards after the war, and it was only in the past two years that the ordnance corps soldiers got around to dealing with them. The treatment of the tanks required special, thorough work, with the soldiers, at times, proceeding even without the blueprints for the tanks.

85 WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS EXPECTED BY JUNE

TA241943 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1845 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Qedumim, 24 Feb--"There will be 85 settlements in Judaea and Samaria by the end of June, thus completing the plan I put forward in the Cabinet in July 1977," Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon stated today during a tour by the newspaper editors' committee in the Samaria settlements. "There is no better guarantee against the establishment of a second Palestinian state in this country (the first already exists in Jordan) than the establishment of these settlements in Judaea and Samaria," the minister stated in the settlement of Qedumim as he discussed the strategic and political importance attached to the implementation of the Jewish settlement program in these areas. The minister revealed that the plan for establishing the final 10 settlements of the outline drawn up at the start of the Likud government's term is now being implemented.

Minister Sharon revealed that, according to the plan, there will be 30,000 Jews in the Qarne Shomron bloc, while there will be 50,000 persons at Ari'el. He pointed out that the government had realized its 1977 plan. Together with the settlements in the Jordan Rift valley and in the 'Ezyon bloc which were established earlier, there will be 85 settlements in Judaea and Samaria. "At least in this sphere no one will be able to claim that the government did not carry out its plan," Sharon said.

There are now 110 families, or 550 persons, including 300 children in the Qarne Shomron settlement, which is inhabited both by religious and non-religious families. At this time 72 apartments are being built in a "build your home" program and it is hoped that the population will be doubled within a short time. The school, which opened with two pupils, now has 500 children and includes a junior high school.

UN PERSONNEL WAITING TO GO TO SHATT AL-'ARAB

TA241900 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Excerpt] United Nations personnel are standing by in Jerusalem to travel to the Shatt al-'Arab waterway to help evacuate foreign ships trapped there since the outbreak of the Gulf war. Jack Katzenel has details:

[Begin recording] About 20 United Nations personnel have been standing by for several weeks at the UN headquarters in Jerusalem, waiting for the go-ahead for what the UN calls Operation Basra. Most of the 20 are radio operators. The rest are security men. If and when they get the word that an agreement has been reached between Iraq and Iran on the evacuation of the foreign ships, they will set out from Jerusalem in six trucks, cross the Allenby Bridge into Jordan; and from there to Kuwait, and finally Basra, the Iraqi port at the head of the Shatt al-'Arab estuary. There they will be joined by two senior UN officials, one from New York, the other from Geneva. The radio operators will then be attached to the Iraqi and Iranian military liaison officers on both sides of the estuary. Their job will be to ensure that there are no dangerous misunderstandings which could lead to shooting and the breakdown of the entire evacuation plan. [end recording]

REPORTAGE ON OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' ACTIVITIES

Working Session

LD241916 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 24 Feb 81 EA

[Text] The 36th session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU went into its first working session this morning with the situation report on the activities of the organization since last June submitted by the OAU secretary general, Edem Kodjo. In the report Mr Kodjo delineated both the weaknesses and strengths of the 50-nations organization which, he said, was at a crosspoint of both local and international developments. The secretary general reminded the delegates that although the essential purpose of the session was to discuss and approve the OAU budget, there were several pressing issues which the session was expected to, and in fact should, examine with utmost care.

Mr Kodjo listed the situations in Chad, the Western Sahara and Namibia as the most critical issues presently facing independent Africa and the OAU. On the positive side, the OAU secretary general mentioned the normalization of relations between socialist Ethiopia and the Sudan. He said that this development has enhanced peace and stability in the region, and was a move worthy of emulation elsewhere on the troubled continent.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe have urged the 36th session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU to intensify the armed struggle against the (?bastion) of oppression in South Africa and Namibia. Mr Abdulai Conteh, minister of foreign affairs of Sierra Leone, made the remarks as outgoing chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Mr Witness Mangwende, foreign minister of Zimbabwe, on his acceptance speech as chairman of the council.

The Sierra Leone foreign minister gave a report on the activities of the outgoing bureau of the Council of Ministers for the last 6 months underlining Africa's disappointment and deep concern on the failure of negotiations over the future of Namibia. To this end, Mr Conteh called on all OAU member states to cooperate fully in the implementation of all the recommendations of the resolutions and plan of action of Namibia adopted last month in Arusha by the African liberation committee.

The outgoing chairman of the OAU Council of Ministers also touched in his report on areas of tension in Africa from Maghreb to the Horn of Africa, as well as positive developments in Uganda, efforts towards economic cooperation in southern Africa, the enlargement of the Niger River Commission and that of the Mano River Union. He also noted problems facing Africa whose solutions demand the political will and cooperation of OAU member-states. These include the future of the Indian Ocean as a nuclear-free zone and an OAU mechanism for dealing with the emergency of problems in the rough and tumble of relations between member states. [sentence as heard]

Fiseha Meetings

LD241925 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 24 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Fiseha Desta, Provisional Military Administrative Council assistant secretary general, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Executive Committee member, today received and held talks with the foreign ministers of the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. The two foreign ministers, Mr Simeon Ake of Ivory Coast and Dr Abdulai Conteh of Sierra Leone, are currently taking part in the Council of Ministers meeting of the OAU which opened here yesterday. Comrade Fiseha exchanged views with the two foreign ministers on African and international issues at separate meetings held in his office.

The foreign ministers conveyed to Comrade Fiseha the message sent to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam from President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast and President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone.

Debate on Chad

LD251134 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 25 Feb 81 EA

[Text] The 36th regular meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers continued in closed session today to discuss the organization's budget for 1981-82. A proposal was made to increase the organization's budget to over \$19.5 million. The session is also discussing ways of recovering dues amounting to \$23 million owed by member-states.

Ambassador Dr Peter Onu, OAU assistant secretary general for political affairs, said that yesterday afternoon's OAU session discussed matters not included in the current agenda. He told journalists last night that one of these was the Chad issue which had generated a brief but heated debate involving Sudan, Egypt, Chad and Libya. He said Sudan and Egypt had objected to Libyan interference in Chad, saying it was a threat to the region's peace and security. The Chad foreign minister had expressed astonishment that the issue had been raised in the session, saying that when his country had needed help only Libya had been willing to provide it. The Libyan foreign minister had said that his country had helped Chad in response to a request from the Chad Government, adding that the union between Chad and Libya reflects the wish of the two countries and that it will be determined on the basis of the willingness of the peoples of the two countries.

The chairman of the ministerial council proposed that the Chad issue be left for discussion by the OAU summit, Dr Onu added.

Ghali Address

NC241913 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has emphasized that Egypt condemns Libya's continued occupation of Chad. He urged the African states to face this situation which constitutes a threat not only to Chad and the neighboring states but to all of Africa. Dr Ghali said this in his address to the African foreign ministers conference this evening. He called for the withdrawal of the Libyan forces from Chad and the deployment of OAU forces in their place. He also called for democratic elections there. He stressed that Egypt is prepared to provide all kinds of aid for the people of Namibia in order to help them achieve their independence. Dr Ghali said Egypt condemns foreign intervention in Africa. He underlined the need to confront such intervention.

ETHIOPIAELF/PLF LEADER VIEWS ERITREAN UNITY, ARAB STANCES

LD241235 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Feb 81 p 1

['Abdallah Bamahir Report: "Sudan Restricts Passage of Arms to Eritrea"]

[Text] Riyadh--'Uthman Salim Sabi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front People's Liberation Forces has said that Sudan is restricting the passage of arms to the Eritreans. [date and place of statement not specified]

On the other hand Sabi expressed thanks to the Saudi Arabian kingdom for enabling the front to attend the third Islamic summit in At-Ta'if, which called for a solution to the Eritrean problem and for every possible effort to reach such a solution. The summit set up a committee consisting of Senegal, Guinea and OAU Secretariat to hold the necessary contacts for this purpose.

Sabi said that the formation of this committee is an implicit recognition by the African and Islamic states of the Eritrean revolution, which represents an opportunity to resubmit the case to the United Nations.

He called on the Arab countries to coordinate their support for the Eritrean revolution, which is the target of an attempt by the Soviet Union to contain it just as it contained Ethiopia.

'Uthman Sabi denied that the meeting of the Eritrean revolution factions under the aegis of the Arab League in Tunis has been postponed. He asserted that the Eritrean revolution factions will meet in Tunis on 15 March and that the factions will go to Tunisia in one single delegation after their scheduled meeting in Khartoum on 1 March.

KENYAPRESIDENT VISITS INDIA, TALKS WITH LEADERS

For Indian media reportage on President Daniel Arap Moi's official visit to India, see the India section of the 23 Feb South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

TANZANIAPAC HEAD INTERVIEWED ON UNITING LIBERATION GROUPS

LD241906 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 24 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] has urged the liberation groups of South Africa to unite in order to effectively carry out the revolution. The call today was made by the new chairman of the PAC, Ndugu Nyeghi Pokela, in an exclusive interview in the studios of Radio Tanzania, Dar es Salaam.

Ndugu Pokela said members of the PAC, the ANC and the Black Consciousness Movement who are serving sentences at the notorious Robben island have been holding talks on the need to unite their organizations. On this issue, he said, all the representatives of the three groups have expressed agreement in principle to unite their liberation groups in the name of the revolution.

Ndugu Pokela, who until recently was serving a 13-year sentence at Robben Island, said the time had come for the agreement in principle to be implemented. The PAC, he said, believed that unity of the liberation groups is inevitable and it should only be a question of time for the external wing to work toward the establishment of a united revolutionary organization to liberate South Africa.

Ndugu Pokela, who stayed inside South Africa for 7 months before escaping to Tanzania in the past week, also spoke of the political climate inside that country. He said the revolution inside South Africa had reached its peak and what was needed was the forging of unity among the people as well as the establishment of a permanent link between the external wing and the home base in order to execute the revolution at its logical conclusion.

On the situation inside the notorious Robben Island itself, Ndugu Pokela said the political prisoners there had learned to defy prison and that they remained confident and in high spirits. He said the prisoners often meet to discuss and learn more about ideologies.

Among the prisoners at Robben Island is Ndugu Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress who is serving a life sentence there. Ndugu Pokela was nominated the new chairman of the PAC over the weekend in a major leadership shakeup in the organization.

UGANDA

SOLDIERS RANSACK OPPOSITION PARTY HEADQUARTERS

LD241142 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Feb 81 EA

[Text] According to eyewitnesses, the national headquarters office of an opposition party in Uganda, the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM) in central Kampala, was ransacked on Sunday night. Local residents said they saw soldiers leaving the office in the early hour yesterday. Furniture was scattered about the floor. Party officials said that typewriters, tape recorders and public address equipment were stolen during the night.

The UPM was formed last year and is led by Yoweri Museveni, a former defense minister, who was deputy chairman of the military commission which ruled Uganda before the December general elections.

Latest reports from Kampala said that Mr Museveni has declared a guerrilla war against the government of President Milto Obote. He claimed to have a force of 5,000 armed followers in the bush in western Uganda.

On the ransacking of his party's offices on Sunday night, police said they were investigating the matter.

Mr Museveni disappeared from Kampala more than 2 weeks ago, shortly before a series of armed attacks on police stations and an army training barracks. His party won only one seat in the last general election which put Dr Obote into power.

CHADFOREIGN MINISTER DENIES 'MERGER' WITH LIBYA

LD241313 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 19 Feb 81 p 5

[A. Hamouni interview with Chad Foreign Minister Ahmat Acyl in Algiers: "The Presence of Non-African Troops on Our Borders Is a Threat to Chad's Security"--date not given]

[Text] The guns have been silenced in Chad. There is new hope of seeing this country, which has been battered for so long by a war forced on it, finally taking the path of national rebuilding and progress for its people who have been sorely tried by 15 years of conflicts, foreign designs and fratricidal confrontation.

We took the opportunity of National Unity Transition Government [GUNT] Foreign Minister Ahmat Acyl's presence in Algiers to ask him to assess the current situation in his country and its prospects now that calm has been restored.

After saying he was happy to be in Algeria again--"a land of revolution whose support for the Chadian people in their struggle against neocolonialism, imperialism and the attacks directed against them is appreciated by us," Ahmat Acyl was anxious to place the painful events which have just dangerously shaken Chad in their real context and to define the real elements of threat which should be taken into consideration.

Ahmat Acyl confirmed to us that the rebellion led by former GUNT Defense Minister Hissein Habre is finally over: "It is all over for Hissein Habre throughout the national territory. Your journalists can come to our country and find out about the extent of Hissein Habre's crimes."

However, our interlocutor admitted, the danger has not been averted, and he stated that there is still a threat to his country due to the presence on its borders of non-African troops and "the plots hatched in Egypt against our unity and territorial integrity."

It is this tense situation, the GUNT foreign minister thinks, which makes help from countries in the subregion vital. "These fraternal countries must help the GUNT in its effort at recovery [apparent line drop] of its security which is now threatened." Returning to the legal government's victory over the rebel forces led by Hissein Habre, the GUNT foreign minister said that he considers it a victory which the whole African Continent must share: "Hissein Habre's victory would have been a disaster for all African countries attached to unity and stability."

"Such a precedent would have been an encouragement to all ambitious people who dream of nothing but power. Hissein Habre's victory would have lent weight to the idea that any minister controlling an armed force can aspire to oust a legal head of state."

In the second part of the interview Ahmat Acyl discussed his country's relations with Libya, giving the necessary clarifications. As is known, a full-scale campaign, resembling a public outcry and advocating Western military interventionism, has been orchestrated on this subject by political circles in some countries--a campaign widely broadcast and encouraged by the Western media.

The foreign minister was categorical on this point: "There was never any question of political unity with Libya with executive powers. Those who are trying to suggest that this is the plan, focusing on one word to which they have attached too much importance, are merely trying to worsen the situation by aggravating existing causes of tension and creating new ones."

"A merger," Ahmat Acyl told us, "cannot be brought about in that way during an ordinary visit by a head of state. What was hastily interpreted as a merger is in fact a communique ratifying the strengthening of relations between the two countries."

Our interlocutor then gave us a retrospective summary of relations between Chad and Libya. He went back to the August 1979 Lagos agreements and the Freetown African summit: "After Freetown the GUNT expected Africa to send a neutral force to end the fighting. That force was never set up. It was then that Chad's legal government appealed to friendly countries for help in halting the rebellion actively supported by Egypt."

"It so happens that Libya, which is a friendly country, responded to our appeal. As far as I know it is not written anywhere that the GUNT should not seek aid from friendly countries if Chad is threatened. Indeed, thanks to Libyan aid, we have been able to put an end once and for all to Hissein Habre's harmful machinations."

"As soon as that mission was accomplished, the Libyan Jamahiriya's foreign secretary visited Ndjamena accompanied by a senior officer to propose the withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad."

"At present we cannot accept such a proposal because our security is still threatened."

"A clear distinction must, therefore, be drawn between the Libyan aid which we sought and the Western troops stationed in some African countries for the purpose of destabilization."

"For our part," Ahmat Acyl told us in conclusion, "we have detected no sign of expansionism in the behavior of Libya--a country with only 3 million inhabitants."

CONGO

FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BRAZIL, SIGNS COMMUNIQUE

For reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Pierre Nze to Brazil and on the signing of a joint communique, see page D2 of the Brazil section of the 25 February Latin American DAILY REPORT.

GHANALIMANN RETURNS FROM TRIP; COMMUNIQUE REPORTED

AB220745 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] The president, Dr Limann, returned to Accra yesterday after his 4-day official visits to The Gambia and Senegal. Speaking at the airport, President Limann said his talks with the leaders of The Gambia and Senegal centered on bilateral relations, legal cooperation and international issues. He said he and his two colleagues agreed during the discussions that it was high time they moved away from too much talk to (?bolt) down to implement decisions taken. Dr Limann said he met the Ghanaian communities in both countries. They were happy and had little to complain about.

A communique issued after his talks in Dakar with President Diouf said the two heads of state expressed satisfaction with the work of the first session of the Ghana-Senegal joint commission held in Dakar last December. They reaffirmed their readiness to work toward the effective execution of the plan of action outlined by the commission. The plan of action laid emphasis on cooperation in the fields of trade, culture, fishery, telecommunication and education. The two countries will, as a matter of urgency, start processes that will strengthen, broaden and diversify their close cooperation. And to achieve this, the two leaders emphasized the need to coordinate their actions in the subregion and the international organizations. The communique said the leaders underlined the importance of the effective functioning of ECOWAS to obtain a progressive integration of its member states. They also noted with concern the growing deterioration of the inter-African relations and the increasing number of conflicts in the attempts by both African and non-African powers to disturb the serenity of the continent.

Presidents Limann and Diouf reaffirmed their desire to strive to achieve the total liberation of the African Continent. On the Chad question, they hoped a just and equitable solution will be found to guarantee peace and stability in the subregion.

The communique, issued in Banjul, reaffirmed the determination of the Ghanaian leader and President Jawara of The Gambia to continue the fight against apartheid. They condemned attempts by the racist South African authorities to frustrate the course of Namibia's independence. The two leaders also called for mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

President Limann invited Presidents Jawara and Diouf to visit Ghana at a date of their convenience. The president was welcomed on arrival by the vice president, Dr Degraft Johnson, ministers, MP's, members of the diplomatic corps and PNP [People's National Party] officials and supporters. President Limann was accompanied on the trip by the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Chinebuah; the minister of finance and economic planning, Dr Benneh; the minister of local government and cooperatives, Mr Jantuah, and the founder and father of the PNP, Alhaji Imoru Egala.

LIBERIA'MAJOR' CABINET RESHUFFLE ANNOUNCED 24 FEB

AB241957 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Report by LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent (Ransofo)]

[Text] Head of state M Sgt Samuel Kanyon Doe has today announced a major reshuffle in the Liberian Government.

Minister of Foreign Affairs G. Bacchus Matthews retains his position as minister of foreign affairs; (Dr R. William) becomes the minister of state for presidential affairs; Dr Togba nah-Tipoteh, minister of planning and economic affairs; while Mr (George K. Bunya) becomes the new minister of finance.

Others are Lt Col (Bebey Harrison), minister of information; Mr Chea Cheapoo, minister of justice; Mr (Yudoo R. Grey), minister of action for development and progress; Mr (Fodoh Krimow), minister of lands and mines; Mr (J. Moses Douph) becomes the minister of labor; while Lt Col Fred J. Blay becomes the director general of the National Youth and Sports Commission.

Other appointments are Dr Bryant, minister of health and social welfare; Dr George Boley, minister of postal affairs; Dr Henry Boimah Fahnbulleh, minister of education; First Lt Alfred Suah, minister of agriculture; and Mr Oscar J. Quiah, minister of local government.

Also appointed are Col Emmanuel T. Gwegby, who becomes the new minister of commerce, industry and transportation; Mr T. T. Kamara becomes the new director of culture at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism; while Mr Moses J. (Tondi) becomes the new director of tourism at the same ministry.

Other appointments are Charles (Toh), deputy minister of state for economic affairs; Gen (Alfred Copper), minister of national defense; Maj (Bitey Atsen), ambassador at large; (John T. Ransey), deputy minister of commerce; (Michael Wolkoloh), deputy chief of staff; Mr Willie P. Nebo, vice president of the [word indistinct]; Mr (H. Shansoh), director of staff and Mr (Sumo Joh), deputy minister of foreign affairs for administration.

NIGERIA

JOINT COMMISSION TO DISCUSS COOPERATION WITH GDR

AB241123 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The first discussion of the joint economic commission between Nigeria and the German Democratic Republic opens in Lagos today. The 3-day meeting will discuss cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, industry, health technology and engineering. (?Ways) of implementing the agreement signed between Nigeria and East Germany 2 years ago will also be discussed at the meeting.

PERMITS TO BE DENIED FOR LAGOS RELIGIOUS MARCHES

AB211339 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] In Lagos, the state police command says it will not issue permits for any religious procession in public places. A statement issued by the public relations department of the command yesterday said that due to its numerous commitments, it could not guarantee the safe-conduct of any religious procession in the metropolis.

PROBLEMS OF KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED

AB240940 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Mohamed Okereja commentary]

[Text] Either by accident or design, Kaduna State has proved to be a notorious front for testing our experiment in the presidential system of government and democracy in Nigeria.

Most Nigerians have thought that by now the political drama in the state would have been over, but unfortunately and sadly enough, there is no end in sight. What many of us initially regard as democracy in action now smacks of political immaturity and intolerance on the part of the actors.

For the purpose of refreshing our memory, it is necessary to recall the basic factor responsible for the unhappy situation in Kaduna State. The state chief executive was elected on the ticket of a political party that incidentally is different from that which commands the majority of the legislators in the House of Assembly. In this respect, the state is unique in the whole country. Ordinarily, one would have expected that the set up would bring about a very dynamic government, bearing in mind the checks and balances which are the principal objective of having three autonomous arms of government. But the extreme partisan [words indistinct] the thinking of politicians in bad taste; or how else can anybody dispel the fact that 17 months after assuming office, the Kaduna State governor still has no cabinet to assist his administration. The result is that nothing is moving in the state. And, as is usual with battles of giants, it is the ordinary citizen that is bearing the brunt. It should be clear that both the legislature and the executive share the blame for the unhealthy situation in Kaduna State. The legislators started off on an undisguised note of confrontation with the executive. In furtherance of this stance, they have certain times rejected, with what may well be described as a wave of the hand, all those whom the governor sought to appoint as commissioners. Similarly, a number of bills from the executive have received subjective treatment in the legislature.

On the other hand, in his bid to assert his authority, the same chief executive overreacted to the attitude of the legislators so much so that he now appears to be intransigent.

The constitution is very clear on the duties and powers of the executive and the legislature, as well as their relationship. They are partners in government and, therefore, jointly have the responsibility of ensuring peace, order and good government. Both parties (?want) to uphold the constitution and to carry out their duties in the best interest of the state. It is doubtful if they are doing just that. It will not be an overstatement to say that Kaduna State is slowly but steadily grinding to a halt. Schools are in disarray, and development projects are neglected. Incidentally, Kaduna State has a great role to play in the country's agricultural development program, because it has one of the major agricultural projects in which several millions of naira had been invested and which provides employment to millions of Nigerians is situated there. Even though this project is in the midstream of the controversy in Kaduna State, its importance ought to be allowed to transcend partisan politics. The overriding interest should be that of the people and the state. It is time politicians in Kaduna State change their conception of partisan politics. What they are practicing in the state is far from the presidential system of government. All they really need is to learn to tolerate opposing views, express and accept these not as personal attacks but as parts of the necessary ingredients for a good government. It is hoped that after months of stalemate in Kaduna State, both parties to the crisis will actually do some self-reexamination and give democracy a chance. And this can only be done by eschewing selfishness and allying the broader concepts of democracy which can only be achieved by the spirit of give and take.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS SENDS MESSAGE TO SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS

AB230759 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] President Siaka Stevens has noted with interest the great achievement gained by the CPSU and the state in accomplishing the decisions and the tasks set forth by the party's last congress.

In a congratulatory message to the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, the head of state said it was important to (?check) the deteriorating international climate which coincides with the holding of the congress. It is my conviction, President Stevens said, that your congress will adopt decisions which will contribute toward the relaxation of tension and strengthen [words indistinct] for universal peace. The chief executive wished the congress a resounding success and prayed for closer economic cooperation between the two states and peoples.

Sierra Leone's delegation to the congress which opened today is led by Second Vice President C.A. Kamara-Taylor.

STEVENS PRAISES FUNCTIONING ACP-EEC RELATIONSHIP

AB230743 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] President Siaka Stevens said today that the African, Caribbean and Pacific states-European Economic Community (ACP-EEC) relationship represents practically the only functioning cooperation between the rich industrialized North and the poor underdeveloped South.

Formally opening the joint commission of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly at the Bintumani conference center at Abardeen, Dr Stevens noted that all the years of efforts at establishing a new international economic order have still yielded no tangible results. The president added that demands of the South for remunerative and stable prices for its agricultural products and mineral resources have either been rejected out of hand or declared object of public produce [as heard]. President Stevens said we must find the political will to correct the structural imbalance in international trade, pay remunerative prices to producers of raw materials, reduce the present dependency of the Third World on the industrialized world and lessen the frequency of world economic crises for everyone.

Sustain the efforts at national levels to find solutions to the present economic difficulties, for instance, [words indistinct]. This, he said, is the inevitable consequence of living in an increasingly interdependent world in which the prices for any of the major items of international trade will soon affect the prices of commodities and consequently, the lives of people far removed from the places of economic power.

BRIEFS

BENIN-FRG COOPERATION--Cotonou, 17 Feb (AFP)--The FRG ambassador in Benin, Mr Dieter Papenfuss, and the deputy director general of the Beninese Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mr Coovi Houedako, signed an agreement of financial cooperation in Cotonou on Tuesday. Under the terms of the agreement, the Beninese Republic is to be granted cfa 3.3 billion for the construction of Porto-Novo Bridge, 30 km from Cotonou. [Paris AFP in French 1332 GMT 17 Feb 81 AB]

NEW NIGERIAN EMBASSIES--Nigeria is to establish eight new embassies and 14 consulates as part of the reorganization program of the Ministry of External Affairs. The missions are to be sited at Manila, Kuwait, East Berlin, Prague, Caracas, Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Geneva. This was disclosed by the minister of state in the ministry, Mr Ali Baba, while defending the ministry's budget allocation before the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Relations. He said the headquarters of the ministry will be divided into six departments to enhance efficiency. [Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Feb 81 AB]

ANGOLADOS SANTOS STOPS IN YUGOSLAVIA EN ROUTE TO USSR

AB241300 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The president of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, is in Moscow now, where he is attending the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. At the meeting which opened yesterday, the head of state is being accompanied, among others, by a member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Workers Party, Comrade Pascual Luvualu, and Comrade Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, the Central Committee secretary in charge of external relations.

Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Communist Party. On his way to the Soviet Union, the Angolan head of state flew on the same plane with the leader of the SWAPO, Comrade Sam Nujoma. They made a stopover in Yugoslavia where Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos met with Yugoslav [words indistinct]. The two sides discussed development of relations between their countries and parties. During their discussions, they also touched the efforts being made by the Nonaligned Movement to try and eliminate some of the problems threatening peace and security of the world. The Angolan head of state also discussed with the Yugoslav authorities the current situation in southern Africa, where the racist minority regime of South Africa is constantly launching acts of (?aggression) against the people of Angola, Mozambique and Zambia.

The Yugoslav Government reiterated its support to and solidarity with the people of Namibia and their just struggle against the Pretoria regime for freedom and independence. [passage indistinct]

MOZAMBIQUEPRESIDENT MEETS PORTUGUESE GENERAL 20 FEB

LD211526 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 21 Feb 81 EA

[Text] The president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Field Marshal Samora Moises Machel, had a meeting with Portuguese General Franco Charais in Maputo yesterday. Gen Franco Charais, member of the Portuguese Revolutionary Council, arrived in our country a few days ago on a visit.

ZAMBIA'SECRET' ARMS DEAL WITH SOVIETS REVEALED

LD241339 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 24 Feb 81 p 5

[Bruce Loudon dispatch: "Kaunda in Secret Arms Deal with Kremlin"]

[Text] Lusaka--Zambia has concluded a secret arms deal with the Soviet Union and diplomats in Lusaka said yesterday that they saw it as the forerunner to much closer co-operation between the Kremlin and President Kaunda.

Zambia has already taken delivery of 12 MiG-21 planes, and some of them, operating from a base at Lusaka International Airport, fly regular sorties over the city.

The deal has never been officially announced and details are not known. But both Western and nonaligned diplomats are convinced that it was concluded some time ago and say that it has been followed by a perceptible increase in Russian activity in Lusaka.

A senior officer has been appointed as military attache at the Soviet Embassy. Until recently the only country to have a military attache in Lusaka was China. Neither the British nor the Americans are permitted to have military attaches at their embassies.

The arms deal had its genesis in the Rhodesian raids on Zambian territory during the Rhodesian guerrilla war which humbled President Kaunda's armed forces.

The Kremlin's ambassador, Mr V. Solodovnikov, offered military assistance. Now the war in Zimbabwe is over, the Russian arms are apparently intended to defend the country against the likelihood of South African attacks against African National Congress (ANC) and SWAPO (South-West African People's Organisation) bases.

Even with the Russian equipment, however, few expect the Zambian forces to pose much of a challenge to the South Africans.

Indeed, according to some highly placed sources in Lusaka, some of the equipment supplied by the Soviet Union has been poor and that fewer than half of the MiG-21's are operational.

Despite this it appears to many that President Kaunda has come off the fence and is adopting a more militant stance in favour of "friendly socialist countries."

Increasingly there have been contacts between Zambia's ruling United National Independence Party and the Soviet Communist Party. There are also definite signs of increased Soviet involvement in Zambian agriculture, crippled after years of mismanagement along socialist lines.

The Russians are believed to allot considerable importance to Zambia in geopolitical terms because of the frosty attitude Mr Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe has adopted towards Moscow. Even though there are to be diplomatic relations between Salisbury and Moscow, it seems clear that Mr Mugabe remains deeply suspicious of Soviet intentions.